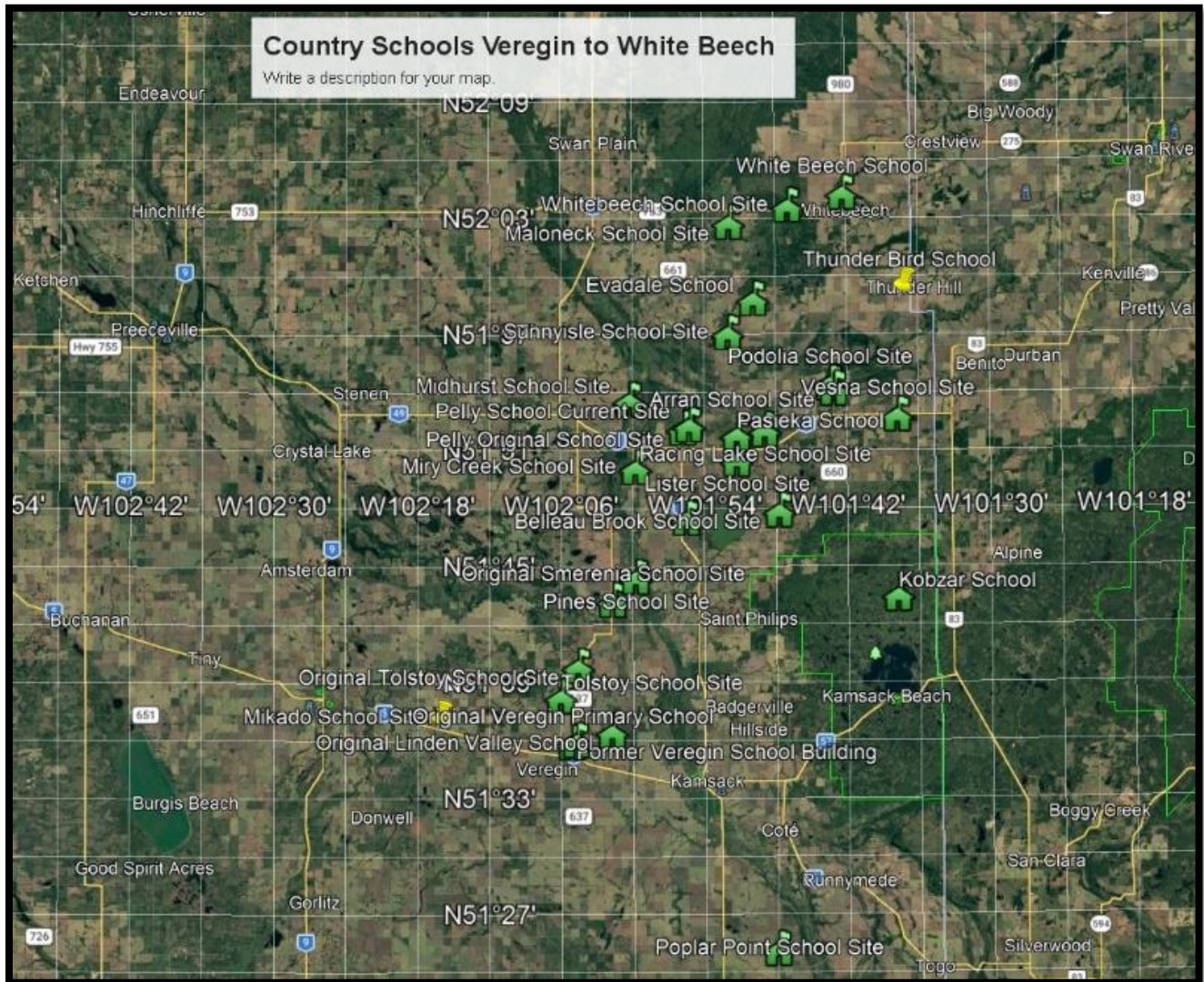


Farm Schools – They Grew People (Suggestion by Lorne Lapshinoff)

(Amended April 30, 2026)

1) Map of Selected Area



Seniors' memories wander and mine started recalling all those Country, One-Room Schools that were in reasonable walking distance of the farming community that brought the virgin Canadian prairies into agriculture producing economies for many migrants from around the World.

This author resolved to list those schools within the above-mentioned communities for the benefit of Readers from those areas. I am inviting them to participate in gathering information, such as photos of buildings, barns, class photos and incidents that may add to this mosaic of history.

1. From Saskatchewan Archives:

“....Before the advent of large administrative units in the middle 1900s, Saskatchewan had small school districts every 4-6 miles apart. Most districts consisted of a single 'One Room School.' The Dominion Government made provisions that Sections 11 and 29 of each township were school sections. In an era when transportation was via walking or horse and no roads, travel was difficult. When hauling grain to elevators with horse and wagon, approximately seven miles was considered to be a convenient distance. This would allow one trip a day. This section provides an alphabetical listing of the one room schools of Saskatchewan 1850-1950.....”

“...Where are these schools today? Do any remain? The [School Districts Listing](#) contains the names, legal land description and dates of establishment of over 5,000 school districts (mainly rural one-room schools), established in Saskatchewan after 1884 giving rise to the Pioneer Slogan ~ "A New School Everyday for Twenty Years (1900-1920).” By 1947 there were 5,192 school districts in Saskatchewan. One Room School Houses dotted **the province about 4-6 miles apart** limiting a child's walking distance to school to 2 -3 miles. The Larger Unit Act of 1944 produced 33 larger school units by 1951, evolving to the 28 [school divisions of today](#).”

2) The schools will be listed, randomly, as this article is not intended to be a learned essay but a collection of memories in the Veregin / Ft. Pelly / Pelly / Arran / White Beech areas such as:

A) Arran, Saskatchewan

a. Arran

1. Location: SD 3480, Sec. ?, Tsp. 34, Rge. 31, W 1st

2. Nearest Settlement: Arran

1. **Harry Berekoff writes:** “...Arran School shut down in 1992 and students were bussed to Pelly. Later to Norquay...”

2. **Phyllis Fedchun, Student:** “....and Arran High 10 to 12. I'm presently jotting down my experiences plus looking for old pictures I hope to complete this project soon....”1963 – Entered Durban High School. No buses available from farm so my parents decided that I would attend Durban High School while living at my Auntie's place in Benito. Total Shock – didn't know anyone. Lots of kids. No familiarity at all. Grade School in country knew all the students and their families to not knowing a soul. All of a sudden there was as much focus on dress, popularity, etc., for the girls especially that I hadn't encountered before; however, I survived and thrived. Learned to adapt to a different environment, methods of teaching incl., an introduction of the French language. I never did master it but managed to pass my grades. 1963 – 1966 – transferred to Arran High School. Again, new faces, new teachers but at least there were familiar faces from my country school. Highlight of Arran High was the yearly Drama Night which encompassed Grades 9 – 12. There were at least 3 plays that were performed plus a choir. These performances also had 2 girl grps.. Each grp., had 4 girls and probably there was a competition on who performed best. One Drama Nite that particularly stands out is the Assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963 that happened the day of our Drama Night performance. During this time one was exposed to Algebra, Geometry, Physics, Chemistry, History and Literature plus French and Ukrainian and Biology by correspondence. I enjoyed this challenge, especially the Lab Projects. Sports like Flag Football, Baseball and Volleyball were played and I participated only in Volleyball during school Hrs. The students who lived in town also curled during the winter. I never participated in after school activities, living 7 miles from town and not having transportation to get there. After graduation, my chosen field was Radiology, simply because it was a new field and not the old standbys. My training began in August 1963 at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital. After graduating in



1966, I started employment at Mall Medical Clinic and later transferred to Health Sciences Center in 1970....”

3. **Phyllis Fedchun, Student**, sends Photo of Teaching Staff:

“..... Found this photo of teachers. Guess would be between 1965 and 1968.

Bottom left to right. Lorne Hryhorishion, Mike Zaharachuk, Mr.McMillan, Lorne Madynski.

Back row. Mrs. Hutchinson, Mr. Lushchenski, Mrs. Pawalishyn, Peter Kluk.



4. **John Khadekin, Principal:**


- a. (See Pelly for history and education)
- b. Was a principal there starting in Arran Fall of 1981-1982 school year completed that year.....started again Fall of 1982-1983 school year...passed April 6, 1983.

DEDICATION

Mr. Khadekin once wrote for our year book that life was like a river, young and turbulent, slow and mature and finally it would come to rest in the great leveling pool. That no matter how many times the river would take a side path and get lost, it would finally carry its life to the final pool. John has reached that pool during this year of our studies.

Mr. Khadekin had great hopes for the future of our school. He had hopes in trying to achieve some type of program for those of us who are a little slow in learning our academic subjects. He had hopes in trying to achieve a program for those of you who get bored with school because it is so easy to learn the academics. He had hopes of continuing the traditions of our community and of keeping our school alive and well. He had hopes in the maintenance of our school, rugs on the floor, drapes in the class rooms, insulation on the windows. He had a hope that every student that entered our school would graduate with honor and feel proud to be a graduate of Arran. He has left us who remain with those same hopes.

However, we are not going to forget Mr. Khadekin and his hopes, as he has left us with an on-going award to remain in our school and given to the top grade 12 English student and if perchance there is an absence of a grade 12 student, then the next grade and so on ad infinitum. We, the students and staff of Arran School, wish to thank Mrs. Khadekin and her family for suggesting and purchasing the plaque and trophy for our school, and in so doing honoring the memory of John Khadekin, former principal of the Arran School.



5. **Dale Kluk Student:** “...My father was Peter Kluk....he finished his teaching career at Arran,,,”



6. **Patti Negrave, Student:** “...Grew up north of Arran in the RM of Livingston

- a. Attended Arran School 1974-1986
- b. Teachers included: Gloria Pawlyshyn, Tannis Negrave, George Chorneyko, Larry Folk, Lorne Mydynski, John Khadekin, Edward Marshall
- c. Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan in 1991
- d. Moved to Ottawa and began working for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in November 1991. Worked as a Policy Analyst, Hog/Pork Sector Specialist and Deputy Director-Red Meat Section. Travelled extensively with the pork industry developing export markets for Canadian pork.
- e. Retired with 31 years of public service in April 2023



7. **Edward Van Parys (student from Kamsack):** “Most of the information for Arran came from a book by a local author. The title is "The Village of Arran" by Debbie Holland and is available through the Parkland Regional Library (Yorkton). You can use what ever info you need...”

“...Most of the early settler’s families felt education was very important for their children and a number of country schools began to pop up in the area The first school, a one-room building, opened in Arran in 1915. In attendance were twenty-two students...”
 “...In 1921-1922, a second room was added to the school, while enrollment had grown to 61...”
 “...In 1953, a new school was built on the same site as the old, as student’s numbers were rising...”
 “...In 1964, as a number of country schools were being closed, students were being mostly sent to Arran. To accommodate the larger numbers an addition was built on the school.....”The population had been in decline for a number of years by this time and by 1976 it was down to 128. A gymnasium was added to the school in the same year....”

8. Gabriel Picton, student, Grade 12 graduate: From Arran

School Yearbook

1957:

Track and field is his favorite sport, the night classes he cuts short. In school work he participates, because the principal's office he hates.

“...Author’s note: I

competed against Gabriel at the joint (Pelly-Arran) Track Meets in 1954 through 1958. I always came in second when running against Gabe....” Later, I later met Gabe, socially in Trail, B.C., at his relatives, where he went to work at Cominco Ltd. I understand that Gabe then moved to Kimberly ...”



9. Patrick Potapoff, Student, Grade 12 graduate: From Arran

School 1957

Yearbook:

He's the boy with lot of knowledge, Next year he intends to go to college. Work for him is lot of fun, That's why he always has it done.

“...Authors Note:

....Patrick was a close friend as well as a distant relative. I lost track of him but heard that he had moved to Winnipeg. I was building the School at Nelson House, Mb. In 1986. I had waiting time at the Winnipeg Airport. I scanned the Telephone Book for a chance that his phone number might be there. Eureka! I found Patrick Potapoff, Chartered Accountant listed. The receptionist advised me that her boss was busy. I told her to pass the message that his friend was in town and needed his crystal set adjusted (we used to play around with Crystal Sets). A minute later Pat came on and excitedly shouted “ELMER!”. On my way back from Thompson, Pat brought his wife and two children to the airport. He did not remember what I looked like and neither did I after 28 years. After all the luggage in the carousel was claimed, there were this man, woman and 2 children standing and searching for the Owner of the one bag that was still circling. I walked up and yes there were tears and hugs all around. In the two years of construction, we met many times....”



10. Peter Popoff, Student: “...was born Nov. 4, 1911 in a Doukhobor village near Swan River on Sask. Side, the author has worked with Peter on a seniors project in Grand Forks, B.C., when Peter advised me that he came from Arran. He was a very capable person and it is likely he attended high school at Arran.

Here is what he achieved after migrating to Grand Forks, B.C. “...He worked in the lumber industry and eventually owned or Co-owned Morrissey Creek Sawmill on the outskirts of Grand Forks, B.C. He was the Manager of the sawmill. He also Managed Morrissey Creek Planer Mill in Grand Forks. I don't know if he owned it outright or had partners....”...Peter Sr and Peter P. Popoff Jr. were both involved in the development and building of Parta Industries Ltd. Peter Sr. Popoff was the Manager of Parta when it went into production in Grand Forks...”



b. Bear's Head

1. Location: SD 2051, Sec. ?, Rsp. 34, Rge. 30, W1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Arran

c. Beaver Plains

1. Location: SD 555, SE Sec. 33, Tsp. 32, Rge 31, W1st
2. Nearest settlement: Arran

d. Evadale

1. Location: SD #3780. NW Sec. 32, Tsp. 34, Rge. 31 W 1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Arran
3. **Harvey Kazakoff, Student writes:**

1. *"...I went to Evadale school in the poplar Bluff district. 52 pupils, probably 42 Ukrainian children, 6 Doukhobor children and the rest Scandinavian children, that is approximate. Ask Katie Antifaeva about Sunny Isle school. There was a Podolia school between Evadale and Arran: Maybridge. There was a Podolia school between Evadale and Arran. Maybridge, was north of Ella Klimm' farm...."*



4. **Iris Krochak-Johnson, Writes:** *"...KROCHAK, Alex, Student lived in the Poplar Bluff district in which the Evadale School was located upon moving to Canada in November 1926. He attended the one room school from grade 1-5! School concerts were an enjoyable event leading up to the Christmas celebrations. However no extracurricular activities were held nor promoted as the area was devoted to farming and the students were farm children making them too busy to take in extra off the farm activities. The students enjoyed field days and played baseball when time permitted. Their sports equipment was limited to baseball, a bat and a football. Alex would recall and share with this family about life in Ukraine and in this area of Canada!! Alex enjoyed history and excelled in that subject along with Mathematics while attending school. Due to conditions at home, Alex had to leave school after completing grade 5, however this did not prevent him from expanding his knowledge outside of school. He excelled at farming and woodworking. studying maps, travelling to name but just a few things!! The family sought better farmland and moved out of that area in late 1930'S. The school now stands empty and serves as a granary! Submitted by Alex Krochak's daughter, Iris (nee Krochak) Johnson..."*

e. Kobzar

1. Location: SE Sec 3, Tsp. 32, Rge. 30, W 1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Arran

1. **Phyllis Fedchun, Student:** *"...I attended Kobzar for my first year..."*
 - a. **Transcribed from had-written notes** *".... Highlights of Christmas Concert. Skits and Carols by students. Mr. Valekhalva came to show movies -I was 2 to 3 times a year.*
 - b. *Field Days – competing for ribbons. Mrs. Young copied assignments on a filled ___?__- I can't remember how it worked or what it was called.*
 - c. *Transportation and Activities were the same except that I was older, I biked to school with my sister sitting crossbar.*
 - d. *School was heated by a Barrel.Stove or a "Boschok' like translation (from Ukranian).*



- e. *I remember being happy in this environment. Conducive to always wanting to move to the new (higher grades) because their readers looked more interesting. This was great motivation to me, personally to pass my grades.*
- f. *I was never bored – there was always something happening to keep you engaged.*

2. **Student Iris Krochak-Johnson:** *“...There was also Kobzar School located SE of Arran and E of Watson Creek, it was a one room School and had a band and sports teams too!...”*

3. **Iris Krochak-Johnson. Student:** *“...This one room school was situated SE of Arran, SK on a portion of SE Sec3-Tsp32-R30 W1st. The Kobzar School District No. 3597 was built in 1915 for a cost of \$1,037.38 plus \$156.13 for the purchase of the barrel heater or “Bashtok” as it was called by the Ukrainians that populated the school plus a sheet of metal that the heater sat on. First year of actual classes was in the fall of 1916 with Miss Sarale Haney being the 1st teacher. It is not known how many students were in attendance, as attendance records located commenced in 1925. However, being that this school was in a prominently Ukrainian area, it is felt that the majority of enrollment was of Ukrainian pupils! Based on the birth date of Anne Zabinsky in 1909, she would have been one of the students in attendance in the opening year and Jean Zabinsky being born in 1911 she would have been another one of the students in attendance in 1917. As most of them spoke only Ukrainian, and one of the teacher's mandates was to stress the usage of English many knuckles were rapped with a ruler, many ears were twisted and when an offence was repeated, the reprimand was more severe like kneeling in a corner on the bare floor.*

The heater sat in the middle of the school room, burning red hot in the winter. Student lunches sat on the metal sheeting around the heater to thaw out before lunch and the water cooler (which a student was responsible for filling first thing each morning) sat in a corner at the back of the room. The wood for stoking the fire sat in a wood box at the back of the room also. A pot of water sat on the barrel stove to keep water warm for hand washing while the basin sat on a small table at the back of the school room too! The washrooms consisted of “outhouses” at the west edge of the school property surrounded by shrubbery!!

The usual subjects were taught such as reading, history, spelling. English and arithmetic. However, much emphasis was placed on penmanship and cursive writing. Each student had a handheld slate, sized 12x12 inches, in their possession at their desk where they practiced their writing lessons!! The grades consisted of 1-8 and no subjects that would lead the students to a future career were taught! However, there were many “outside” activities which the students partook in during the spring & early summer months, there were sports activities which lead to “field days” in Arran, Sk. Parents volunteered and drove the kids to Arran by way of horses first, then by tractor and in later years by vehicles. Most schools took part in the parade and decorated their schools by having students wear a specific color, adding streamers, and included signage identifying their school!! Different sporting events were held, and ribbons were earned and worn with pride by the students!!

The Christmas concert was an important event both for the pupils and more so for the teacher who was graded by the School Inspector based on the success of the concert!! The teacher and students spent many hours in early winter leading up to the concert event rehearsing, memorizing new plays, new songs, new carols all of which formed the concert, not to mention decorating the entire school for the event!! The fathers would construct the stage in a simple way and in later years along with the stage came the hanging of curtains to form little private rooms for the students to use as the concert progressed! The evening concluded with the appearance of Santa Claus who handed out bags of candies and oranges to the students and any young kids in the crowd!! The Christmas Concert attracted people from near and far!! This event has a special place in my heart whenever I think of same!! This concert then led to the Christmas school holidays of 2 week.

As there was no community hall in the area until 1936, all special events and fund raisers were held in the school from 1916 until 1935. These events consisted of pie socials, dances, Shevchenko and other concerts, recitals and other events. The people in the in the area were eager to support these event as they were social events! In time enough funds were raised to expand the school and build a 3 stable barn. The stable enabled the students to ride horses to school, also it allowed parents to

stable horses during social events that took place at the school. The parents rotated on use of the barn during social events! The parents played an integral part in the operation of the school supporting the fund-raising events, the Christmas concerts and other activities volunteering as needed to insure the children and teacher benefited and succeeded.

The school board supplied each school with a bat, baseball, badminton birdies and net, along with a football!! The school had a library with a decent supply of books and in recent years each student was gifted a "Recipe For Young Adults"! I received the book in 1956, and I recently gifted it to my granddaughter!!!

Over time fewer students attended the school. The roads in the area were greatly improved which enabled vehicles to pass over them comfortably. It became costly to operate the small remote school. so, the school board decided to close the school entirely on June 30th, 1967, and the 8 remaining students were bused to Arran, Sk. The final teacher was Mrs. Victoria Makahoniuk and the teacherage was bought by Sally and Ed Yunick and the school by my parents Alex and Emily Krochak to be used as a shed. All that remains is a marker on the land where the school was located and the beautiful memories!!

These are the memories that my mom and her Zabinsky siblings experienced while attending Kobzar school and shared with me over the years. It is also the memories I experienced while in attendance in that beautiful one room school over my years attending the Kobzar one room school...."

f. Paseika

1. Location: NW Sec 19, Tsp, 33, Rge. 31, W1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Arran
 1. School was also used for church, dances and school meetings. In 1914 Town of arran came into being and a school was built there.
 2. **Veronica Temrick Johnson, daughter of Teacher, Max Temrick** writes: "...Hi, I'm Veronica Temrick Johnson, Vern Johnson's sister-in-law. I saw a post about you seeking one room school info & thought I should contact you. My father, Max Temrick taught at Paseika after returning from overseas, likely there in '47 -'48. I do not have any details about this position only when he taught at Cedric, near Mikado in '35 & '36. He then taught at Hazel Dell until he enlisted in '41. After Paseika school he trained with the administrator for the RM of Livingston & took over the position in '52. If you have any info on Paseika I would love to see it & possibly add it to my ancestry collection. My email is veronicaj51@gmail.com,"

g. Podolia

1. Location: SD 2388, NE Sec. ?, Tsp. 34, Rge. 31, W1
2. Nearest Settlement: Arran
 1. **Dale Kluk, Student:** "...My father was Peter Kluk....He then moved to Podolia School for approximately 10 years before finishing his teaching career in Arran..."
 2. **Photos from Saskatchewan Country School Archives. Historical photographs were submitted in 1935.**

Pic. Neg. No. 485 ---- Padolia School picture, N.W. of Arran, Saskatchewan

1 2 3 6 7 8 11 15 16 18 20 22 24
 4 9 10 12 14 17 19 21 23 25
 13
 26 27 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
 28



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Edith Martin | 11. Mary Tomenchuk | 21. Walter Legebokoff | 31. Levrina Nahrybida [NAH 47] |
| 2. Bessie Kinaschuk | 12. Drest Luky [NAH 127] | 22. John Husak | 32. Sally Nahrybida [NAH 48] |
| 3. Ethel Nahrybida [NAH 3] | 13. Fred Husak | 23. Vladimir Nimetz | 33. Mary czycz |
| 4. Jean Brennan | 14. Alex Tomenchuk | 24. Bill Stasuk | 34. Ramona Bugera |
| 5. Marjeria Legebokoff | 15. Valdimir czycz | 25. Walter Vanin | 35. Effie Poroschuk |
| 6. Fanny Berekoff | 16. Mike Legebokoff | 26. Stella Nahrybida [NAH 33] | 36. John Bugera |
| 7. Hazel Legebokoff | 17. Tony Nahrybida [NAH 32] | 27. Annie Legebokoff | 37. George Legebokoff |
| 8. Gloria Nahrybida [NAH 30] | 18. <i>Hazel Legebokoff</i> | 28. Olga Legebokoff | 38. Henry Vanin |
| 9. John Barikoff | 19. Phillip Legebokoff | 29. <i>Nellie Tomenchuk</i> | 39. Leslie Brennan |
| 10. Fred Bugera | 20. Mike Vanin | 30. Minnie Stasuk | |

3. by Thelma Findlay

h. Thunderbird

1. Location: SD 762, NW Sec. 1, Tsp. 35, Rge. 30, W1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Arran

i. Vesna

1. Location: SD 736, NE Sec. 22, Tsp. 33, Rge. 30, W1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Arran
 1. 1913 – First teacher Mike Chorneyko. 1918 teacher’s salary was \$100 per month. School temporarily closed due to Spanish Flu in 1918.
 2. **Dale Kluk, student;** “...My father was Peter Kluk. He taught at Vesna for 1 or 2 years....”

j. Watson Creek

1. Location: SD #4083, Sec. 1, Tsp 34, Rge. 31, W 1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Arran
 1. Opened February 10, 1919, **First Teacher was Billy Mills** with twenty-six students
 2. **Phyllis Fedchun, Student:** “...then Watson Creek till grade 8...”
 - a. 1950 – Watson Creek grade two teacher was Mrs. Sam Yoremko. Because my English was limited, it was a tough start.
 - b. Same scenario as Kobzar except during the Summer we practiced for Field Day – High Jump, Broad Jump, Races, etc. Ribbons were given out – 1st; 2nd; 3rd; 4th places. Very Exciting – loved the recognition.
 - c. We also played Volleyball
 - d. Approx. 1958, Mrs. Iris Young became... (transcription was not clear)

3. From the

internet:“.....**Joseph Paul Prokopchuk,Student** known as “Yukon Joe,” was born in Saskatchewan and moved to British Columbia in 1920 to stake a mining claim near South Fort George. He also prospected in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Yukon Joe is well-known for his prospecting and painting, with his works often depicting the frozen wilderness of the Yukon. He has taught painting to the children of wealthy families in Vancouver’s once-posh Shaughnessy Heights during one of his infrequent sojourns to the coast in the 1930s. Despite his fame, Yukon Joe has never had an exhibition but has sold his paintings. He is known for his realistic oil paintings and has also dabbled in other forms of art, such as tree fungus and moose horn paintings.

Prokopchuk family did homestead in the Watson Creek district, six miles south of Arran, Saskatchewan. Lukean (“Lucas”) Prokopchuk received a government land grant and settled there with his second wife, Wanwara (“Verna”) Yaszczyn, and their children, likely around 1917. The family was a prominent part of the local community, attending the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Arran. Information regarding the specific country school he attended is limited in the provided sources. However, it is known that getting a good English education was important to Ukrainian families in the area, and other Prokopchuk siblings attended the local Arran School. “Yukon Joe” left home as a young man in the early 1920s, before completing a full education in the area. Butterfield also describes a time when he was cold and homeless in Moosejaw, Saskatchewan



And a gentleman offered him his car to sleep in for the night, as long as Yukon Joe would guard the car. Yukon Joe had no idea who this man was, and it turned out later that it was Al Capone! In Moosejaw for business, I guess," she added with a smile....'

B) Benito, Manitoba

a. Benito:

i. John R. Khadekin, Principal

ii. Ed Werenich, Student: (from Internet)

"...Werenich was born and raised in the town of Benito, Manitoba but moved to Toronto after finishing high school. He began curling at age ten.

In 1972, Werenich joined Paul Savage's team as his second. The following year they would play in their first Brier. They would return again in 1974 and then in 1977 with Werenich as Savage's third. Without a championship, Werenich skipped his own team to the Brier in 1981, but still could not win.

In 1983 Savage joined Werenich as his third and they would go on to win the Brier title that year over Ed Lukowich of Alberta. At the World Curling Championships of that year, Werenich defeated Keith Wendorf's team from Germany in the final. Werenich returned to the Brier in 1984 and again in 1988 before winning for the last time in 1990 this time without Savage- defeating Jim Sullivan's New Brunswick team.

During the 1987 Canadian Olympic Curling Trials, Werenich was "humiliated" by the Canadian Curling Association threatening to disqualify him if he didn't "shed a few pounds"^[2].

At the 1990 World Championships, Werenich defeated Scotland, skipped by David Smith. Werenich returned to the Brier in 1995 and then in 1997 before announcing his first retirement from curling in 2000. Werenich came out of retirement in 2004, and made it to the Ontario men's championship for one final time.

Werenich was named to the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame in 1988.^[3] The other three members of his 1983 world championship rink, Paul Savage, John Kawaja and Neil Harrison are also in the Hall of Fame.

In 2009, Werenich, Savage, Kawaja and Harrison were inducted into the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame....".



C) Canora, Saskatchewan

a. Brenna:

1. Location: SD #3605, Sec.15, Tsp. 30, Rge. 3, W2nd
2. Nearest Settlement: Canora
3. Jonathan Kalmakoff reports:

1. "...My grandfather attended Brenna school just a mile west of our farm. He often talked about playing ball against other school teams, Phoenix School and further to the north. He said the teams from the north were the best teams because they had plenty of practice picking and throwing stones on their rocky land. Lol..."

2. "...My grandfather was Jack J. Kalmakoff (1928-2011)...."

b. Poplar Springs

1. Location: SD 1676, SE Sec. 20, Tsp. 30, Rge. 5, W2nd
2. Nearest Settlement: Canora



D) Kamsack, Saskatchewan

a. Kamsack

1. Location: Junction oh Highway 5 and 22

2. **Mike N Chernoff, Student...continues from posting at third school at Veregin:**“....In 1949 we moved to Kamsack, I was in grade 7 and finally in a single grade room. Aye, those were the days!!

3. From the Internet as well:

a “... (born c. 1936) is a Canadian curler and geologist from West Vancouver, British Columbia.^[3] He is a 1978 World Men's bronze medallist^[4] and a 1978 Brier champion.

c. “...Chernoff has a degree in geological engineering from Queen's University at Kingston.^[5] He was born in Kamsack, Saskatchewan. He is married to Dorine.^[6] After graduating from Queens, Chernoff worked as a geologist, conducting field studies across Canada for several oil and gas companies including California Standard, Pinnacle Petroleum, and Ulster Petroleum. He founded Strom Resources in 1979, and sold it to PennWest. He founded Paclata Resources in 1987 with his son Bruce, developing oil and gas operations in a number of different countries. It was sold to Alberta Energy Company in 1999. He was a director at Encana (now Ovintiv) and Canadian Hydro Developers

4. **Edward Van Parys, Student:** “... When I went to school there were four schools in Kamsack--two elementary (Victoria and Assiniboine (a junior high (now the high school) and the high school (Collegiate). I graduated from the U. of S. (Saskatoon) in the late 1980's. Graduated with a B.A. in Economics....”

1. “...Kamsack was one of only two or three communities that had their own natural gas system, from wells south of town to its own distribution system and can't forget the old oil refinery too...”
2. “...I grew up in Kamsack and went to school only in town, but recognize a number of the school names and people. In my school days I don't think I ever went to school with anyone that started in the country. I remember some kids from the Veregin and Togo school...”

b. Linden Valley

1. Location: SD. 102, SE Sec. ?, Tsp. 30. Rge. 1, W2nd

2. Nearest Settlement: Kamsack

3. From Google: “....This was one of the oldest schools in Saskatchewan. It burned down and classes were held in the roofed-over basement until a new school was completed in 1932. First Teacher was T Klochko. School closed in 1967....”

1. **Dr. William (Bill) Chernoff author note:** “.... attended for grades 1 through 8 at Linden Valley before completing High School at Veregin. He attended the University of Saskatchewan and later received a Rhodes Scholarship to England to achieve a Doctorate in Mathematics and Physics. He was a Professor at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, NB....”

1. (Testament pending from Bill)

2. “...**Student Comment from University of**

New Brunswick: I failed Math 1003 before and took it from Chernoff and got an A+... what a difference! He actually tested us on what he taught us in class! He was an amazing prof and I loved having him again for 1013! Great personality too! HoHoHo!!!...”



2. **Jack Chernoff, Student (Author note):** “.....completed grades 1 through 8 at Linden Valley and continued to Veregin. Teaches at UCC, Kamloops, B.C. CHERNOFF, JACK, B.S.A. (Sask.), I.D. (Brit. Col.), College Prep (Testament Pending From Jack)....” **Testament Pending**

3. **Violet (nee Makieff) Plotnikoff, Student:** “....attended school here until moving to Grand Forks. She was the Author of ‘Head Cook at Funerals and Weddings’
 - a. ...FromGoogle“....**Project MUSE:** The book is noted for its authentic account of Doukhobor life, capturing the rich culture, customs, and history of the Doukhobor-Canadian experience.
These reviews suggest that "Head Cook at Weddings and Funerals and Other Stories of Doukhobor Life" is a valuable resource for those interested in Doukhobor culture and history. Thok's authentic storytelling and attention to detail make it a standout title in this genre....”
4. **Tannis Negrave, Student wrote:** “.....Yes, I went to school with Bill and his sister Annie! Dora has just completed grade 8! There was a huge school population - Fred Mojelski, William Mojelski, Sonia, Edward and Jeanette Tysowski, John, George, Mary and Sylvia Matechuk, Tony and Stella Mazur, Anne and Polly Trofimenkoff, Albert, Eileen and Dwaine Secondiak! Sent from my iPad....”

c. **Poplar Point**

1. Location: (waiting for Bev Nueman)
2. Nearest Settlement: Kamsack
3. This information is from **Bev Nueman** whose mother taught at the school



Students attended Poplar Point School from 1908 to 1966



Attending a school reunion in 1995 were the following former teachers at Poplar Point School, standing, from left: Ben Kowal, Margaret Hunter, Mary Neuman, Adeline Derenwsky, Mrs. Arneson, Genevieve Berezny (Sakundiak) and Sam Osachoff. The two women seated at front were not identified.

Continued from Page 13

Sam Ditsch was hired at a rate of 10 cents a day to light the fires in the school

one hour before school started, that fee was increased to 15 cents in 1911.

By 1914, the school tax

was raised to seven cents an acre, and in 1918, a new floor was installed for \$20. The next year an extension, measuring 12 feet by 20 feet and with a pitched roof, was to be added by David Mitchell, who was to be paid 75 cents an hour.

In 1920, the teacher was hired at \$1,250 a year, and in 1927, it was agreed to construct a barn and move the windows from the east to the west side of the building.

The trustee meeting of March 1929 indicated that cases of scarlet fever were prevalent in the district. In July, while there was a problem with “a certain group of people burning down schools,” trustees decided to hire a night watchman

“until things settled down. In December one of the pupils was sent home because two cases of diphtheria were reported in her family. Medical health offices were called but not more cases were reported.

In 1935, a Miss Hanlon was hired to teach at the rate of \$375 a year, and in 1936, Bill Hodikin delivered 10 cords of green poplar for \$20.

It was decided in 1937 to plant 1,350 trees and a bid from Fred Mojelski to plant them for \$9.50 was accepted. The next year the board agreed to put on dances in the school once a month, with proceeds to go towards a Christmas fund. K.M. Kinnear was hired as the teacher for \$500 in

1939.

Jacob Haberman purchased an organ from the school for \$4 in 1941 and three years later, the board purchased a silent projection machine for the school for \$90.42.

In 1947 the board discussed the possibility of building a teacherage because it was difficult attracting experienced teachers to the school without having a teacherage, and by June it was agreed to transfer surplus school funds for the building of the teacherage and the purchase of a radio-telephone for the school.

The board decided to ask the school unit to install swings, teeter totters and a soft ball net at the school.

And in 1954 it was decided together and the price of drinks and hot dots were set at 10 cents each. Race prizes were 15 cents, 10 cents and five cents respectively.

At the trustee meeting of June 10, 1966, it was said that with the enrolment of only six, the decision was made to close the school permanently.

Employed as teachers at Poplar Point were as

follows: Molly Bowes, Mr. Atwater, Miss Robinson, G.V. Tansk, Mr. Galloway, J.M. Roberts, L.A. Cashman, Marion Jolliff, Robert G. Ward, John Armstrong, Ceclia Vaudall, Helen Orth (Theis), G.C. Chappell, Archie Powell, Robert C. Smith, J.M. Boucher, L.M. Mossop, Jean Brigham, Margaret Kendall (Hunter), D. Hanlon, Julia Kulachkoski, K.M. Kinnear, A.J. Ransom, Mararite Coquette, Adeline Derenwsky, Ben Kowal, Sam Osachoff, Robert Taylor, Ardis Olson (Arneson), Amelia Barteski, Lena Picton, Rhinold Witzell, Genevieve Sakundiak, William Koroluk, Mrs. Mitschke and Mary Neuman.

Serving as chairman of W.W. Dubasov, I. Bowes, J. Franklin, H. Neuman and J. Cherkas.

The building, now located at the museum, contains blackboards, desks and other artifacts from the years it served as a school. Plans are to restore the building, which will contain the museum's collection of memorabilia of the days of one-room schoolhouses.

E) Mikado, Saskatchewan

a. Mikado

1. Location:
2. Highway 6
3. Nearest Settlement: Mikado



b. Pheonix

1. Location: SD 2320, SW Sec.6, Tp32, Rge 2, W2nd
2. Nearest Settlement: Mikado
3. Author's known students that attended:
 1. **Lawrence Verigin:** "...attended from September 1937 to May 1944..."
 2. **Russel Verigin:** "...attended from September 1939 to May 1944..."
 3. **Mary (nee Verigin) Khadekin:** "...attended from September 1943 to May 1944..."
 4. Teacher was **Mr. Malakoff**
 5. Other families were:
 - a. **Negraeffs, (Peter Negraeff that taught in Pelly)**
 - b. **Dergousoffs, Paul, Lorne, Fred, Polly, John**
 - c. **Lazerooffs, Polly (nee Reilhoff), Helen (nee Rebalkin), Mable (nee Kabatoff, Marion (nee Krzenowski / Green)**
 - d. **Shiskin, Alex**
 - e. **Skurats**
 - f. **Zaystoffs**

c. Pretty Valley

1. Location: SD #4378, Sec. ?, Tsp.31, Rge 3, W2nd
2. Nearest Settlement: Mikado
3. **Linda Osachoff, Student: Testament Pending**

d. Zukunft

1. Location: NW Sec. 26. Tsp. 30, Rge. 2, W2nd (Location Pending)
2. Nearest Settlement: Mikado

1. **Nadia (nee Chernoff) Stevenson BSc., MRT:** *".....Sister Nadia did attend Zukunft School. Her time at the school is interesting. I do not recall, but I assume she started school at 5yrs old turning six in October. However, she completed grade eight at 12 yrs old and was ready to go on to high school in Canora. About three years ago I flew down to Saskatoon to visit her in Birch Hills on their farm. I asked her how come she completed primary school so early at 12yrs old. She told me that when she started school she was the only student in her grade. Her teacher Mrs. Prochurch advanced her two grades because she was too lazy to do the curriculum for one student. Nadia said she was able to keep up, thus finishing primary school at 12 yrs old turning 13 in October. She boarded at our aunt's place till Christmas and then we moved to Canora so she could live at home. I do not know how much parental involvement there was to make this decision. I know it probably it won't be allowed*



now. She then left home to start university at 16 yrs. Very young to face the challenges of attending university.

2. **Student Doris (nee Chernoff) Thesenvitz BScN; MACL,**
reports:



"...I did attend ZUKUNFT, (German word meaning progress or opportunity) for three and one half years before we moved to Canora in 1954. I do faintly remember being walked to school by my grandfather on my first day to start grade one. I guess my parents were busy, mom with younger twin sisters, housekeeping, cooking, gardening etc. and dad with farming, fixing gas engines(took the gas engine course at university of Saskatchewan in 1930), (had a welding shop), and also barbering. I spent a lot of time with Grandpa as my grandparents lived with us.

The school was a two-room country school. As you walked in there was a washroom and some cupboards where we would put our lunches. The other larger room was our school room for grades one to eight. We had approximately 12 students. In grade one I had two classmates, Ruby Tomilin and Hazel Dergousoff. There was also a barn on the property for those who came to school with wagon or sleigh and horses. Also had a small building where our teacher Mr. Hladun lived. The superintendent Mr. McMonikle came to check the school on a yearly basis we were instructed by Mr., Hladun to be on our best behaviour.

I enjoyed going to the school for the years I spent at Zukunft. I was always a serious student as education was encouraged in my family, I was able to compete when we moved to Canora in 1954. Some of the highlights of the country school included Christmas Concerts which we spent couple months preparing. One Christmas we presented a play called "Vanka" goes to town. I do not remember much about the play other than the name and Dad build a cardboard car which was used in the play. Parents were invited for the Christmas concert. It was a big deal. We also had memorable Halloween parties, and sled parties yearly at the Brant farm.

There was a time when individual lunches were being stolen from the entry room. I cannot remember how the teacher found out, however, one of the older male students was punished using a yardstick. I also remember that I had to stand in the corner one time as punishment. I cannot remember what I did.

The school was heated by a coal furnace in the basement. There was no running water and we had to go to a local farm to get the water. The teacher would ask who wanted to go bring drinking water to the school. I often volunteered. The incentive was a payment of 5 or 10 cents. I saved this money and other given to me and after I finished Grade eight in Canora bought myself a Boliva watch which I still have.

At times during the school day our teacher would get a visitor. She would bring us individual ice cream sundaes. We all loved this as we rarely got to eat ice cream because there was no refrigerator in our homes. Our teacher and visitor would spend hours in the teacherage while all the students spent playing prisoners base outside.

3. **Doris sent photo:**

a. *"...Front row(starting from bottom left to right):
Hazel Derhouseoff, Doris Chernoff, Ruby Tomilin,
Charlotte Werner, Darlene Derhouseoff*

b. *Second row:
Tommy (?), Donald Sekundiak, Stanley Zelinski,
Doreen Malischewski, Nadia Chernoff, Sylvia Zelinski*

c. *Third Row:
Cyril Kabatoff, Warren Malischewski, Annette Chernoff, Marie Zelinsk*



F) Pelly, Saskatchewan

a. Belleau Brook

1. Location: SD 4173, Sec. ?, Tsp. 35, Rge. 32, W1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly

b. Devonshire

1. Location: SD 3822, NW Sec 27, Tsp 32, Rge 32, W 1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly

1. **Fred Konkin, student** has this photo passed on through Winnie Dubasov:

L - R : Pat Craig, Marion Higgs, Ralph Fiessel, Arnold Hrabchak, Hector Stevenson, Charles Craig, Fred Konkin, Lorne Werberetski. All kneeling unknown. Teachers were Paul Kostar and Lorne Brandon. School closed in the early sixties and buses came into effect



Fred and Eileen Konkin are residents of Pelly, Saskatchewan, known for providing tours and preserving local Doukhobor heritage in the area, as described in this Broadview Magazine article. They are part of the community surrounding the [Doukhobor Heritage](#),

Fred was in construction as a Carpenter and then returned to the family farm West of Devonshire where he retired as a Farmer on the home farm. Eileen was a Benito School graduate and then practiced teaching in Special Needs within the Kamsack School District



2. **Sonia (nee Konkin) Tarasoff, Student** reports January 27, 2026: "...Teachers:

Pauline Betz(Betts), Art Johnson, Paul Koster. Students: Patricia , Charles and Jimmie Craig, Clara, Ralph, Raymond Caroline and Kenny Fissel, Frances and Margie Aresenko, Harold Kazakoff, Lorraine,, Lorne and Iris Werboweski, Steve Boyko, Lloyd Doobenen, Hector and Lena Stevenson, Randy ,Bennie, Marianne and Laurie Koenigbaur, Eddie Klimchuck, Ethel and Olga Nayko, Arnold Hrabchak, Jim and Marion Higgs, ? Pratt, MacLise Family, brother Fred Konkin and myself. ..."



c. Fort Pelly

1. Location: SD 163, NE Sec 25, Moved
2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly
3. From Google: "...[FORT PELLY School District No. 163](#) was officially organized in 1889, and the first school building was a rented home. In 1916, a schoolhouse was erected on Section 25 and the school received the moniker the *SCHOOL BESIDE THE BRIDGE* in 1916 - 1929. The southern portion of the district was served by *PINES* school district. Fort *PELLY* school burned in 1929, and a new schoolhouse was erected in 1930 on section 26, 1/2 mile away from

the bridge across the Assiniboine River. In 1963 the school closed.

FORT PELLY School District # 163 NW Sec 30 Tsp 32 Rge 32 W of the 1 Meridian according to the land patent at the Western Land Grants...."

4. ".... School in 1889 school district was organized. First Teacher was M. Hewgill. First students to sit in mud-plastered log schoolhouse were: Eugene MacLise, Mini Linklater (MacDonald), Charlie MacDonald and Aggie MacDermitt...."

1. **Ed and Jack Horkoff were students** for grades 1 through 8 inclusive and continued to Pelly for High School.

2. **Judy (nee Strelioff) Trofemenkoff and her sister Velma (nee Strelioff) Rezansoff** took their Public Schooling at this school before carrying on in Pelly.

d. **Lister**

- I. Location: SD 42194, SW Sec. 18, Tsp. 33, Rge. 31, W1st
II. Nearest Settlement: Pelly
III. **Committee Chairman John Rose, Secretary Robert Davis.** Fifty students.

1. **Winnie (nee Slastukin) Dubasov** writes re Lister school: "...Possibly one of the

Lasko girls as they were a few years younger than myself, Woloshyn family but not sure who is still with us, then there were the Rose family, 3 boys, I'll check with Marge (sis) as two of the boys lived in Kamsack, can't think of anyone else, my parents both attended Lister school & I have one photo of their reunion held at Lakeside hall, for the photo they gathered around Mrs. Lister as she was the teacher there for many years. Yes, Uncle John attended Lister school & Lloyd (son) did as well (passed away 1976). The younger ones were bused to Pelly...."



(passed away 1976). The younger ones were bused to Pelly...."

Photo Back Row L-R: John Strukoff (father of Tannis, Larry and William), William Slastukin (Winnie's Uncle), Pete Areshenkoff, Teena Slastukin, Velma Jones, Third Row: Harry Lister, Percy Ball, Tena Areshenkoff, Polly Legebokoff, Rena Ball, Helen Balmer

Second Row: Fred Slastukin (Winnie's father), Mike Areshenkoff, Mike Kruk, Nick Makaeff, Dora Legebokoff, Dora Chernenkoff, Molly Vanin, Polly Chernenkoff, Front Row: Tony Krul, Richard Lister, Freddie Hall, Joe Kruk, John Vanin (Lloyd's father), Bob Lister, Archie Balmer, Bessie Ball, Isabel Balmer and Tena Vanin.

2. **Winnie Dubasoff (her parents were students):**

"....Lister School Ball Team. Fannie (nee Vanin) Slastukin Back Row, third person is Winnie's mother.



3. **Heather Harness:** "...My mother was Anne Balmer went to Lister School..."

4. **Eileen (nee Vanin) Kennedy, Student:**

- a. "...- My brother Ron went to U of S for a couple years
- I completed the Business Administration certificate with honors at U of S

- I worked at U of S close to 10 years
 - my niece Alycia, who is Ron's daughter, currently works at U of S
- U of S has been good to my family

- b. On March 05, 2026, Eileen will contact Ron for his story. "...Brother Ron was in the last grade 1 class at the Lister school. Christmas concerts were always a big event at the school. Ron is the small boy in the photo (Christmas concert photo attached)



5. **Arthur Lister was a student, Eileen Kennedy note:** "... became a pharmacist...." "...worked in Kamsack and Yorkton as a pharmacist and then moved to Kamloops where he bought a pharmacy. His wife was from Foam Lake and she became a nurse....":

6. **John R. Khadekin, Student** attended here from grades 1 through 8 incl.

- a. **Mr. Khadekin** taught school here after Normal accreditation
- b. See more information at Pelly School
- c. Photo is a 1938 photo of a book and so faces are not clear. Back Row L-R: William Legebokoff, Mary Ewach. Vera Areshenkoff, John Wolooshyn, Leonard Lister, John Makaeff, Ida Ewach, Teena Makaeff,
- d. Front Row: Allan Lister, Mabel Netterfield, Arthur Lister, Peter Bludoff, Mary Slastukin, Mary Woloshyn, Cassie Ewach, John Khadekin, George Bludoff,



7. **Lloyd Vanin, student (author note):** ".....completed High School in Pelly and then attended the University of Saskatchewan where he attained a degree in Chemical Engineering...." His daughter Jennifer states: ".....From what I was told he worked north of Winnipeg at a pulp and paper mill after graduation...He met my mom in Winnipeg and after some time, my mom made the decision to relocate to Vancouver. My mom was a nurse. My dad followed her to BC and began working for a pulp and paper mill in BC. When a recession hit in the 70s, he did many odd jobs until landing at Canada post."my brother Lloyd would have stayed at my grandparents, Kastrukoffs, when he went to high school in Pelly and then back to the farm home for the weekend....."



- a. **Daughter Eileen Kennedy writes:** "...Our parents always thought that education was important. My brother Lloyd was one of the first one of our cousins to go to university. It was a proud moment for mom and dad when he convocated from U of S. My dad took the municipal administration program through University of Regina when he retired from the farm. He worked many years for the RM once completing...." Editor Note: **John Vanian was a former student at Lister School.**

8. **Lloyd Vanin as a Student:** " Back Row: Joyce Rose, Trudine Lister, Don Rose. Third Row: Mary Ann Lasko, William Strukoff. Second Row: Patsy Lasko, Wendy Lister. Front Row: Linda Woloshyn. Barry Lister, Lloyd Vanin.



9. **Ron Vanin, student, sends this photo of his father John**

Vanin, Student dated student, Daughter Eileen writes:

"...Probably just for interest, the man by the car is my dad, John Vanin. He was a farmer, and a big supporter of our Pelly and District community. He served as counselor, St Philips RM for many years. I remember him going to meetings and conventions through the years. He then was the administrator for the RM St Philips office, well into his 80's. He loved the community..."

"...Dad did attend Lister School and then he must have gone to school in Pelly for high school. He finished grade 11. He wanted to go to grade 12 but he was needed at the farm. Then they had to go to high school in town? I remember dad telling us he had to board at someone's place in town when he went to the Pelly town school but I don't have details.,," "...Ron farms the family farm now..."

"...mid 1970's, he had some time on his hand so took the Municipal Administration Certificate Program through University of Regina. He then was hired as the administrator once he finished the program. He worked as the St Philips administrator in the Pelly office until the early 2000's. He loved taking his grandchildren to his office whenever visiting Pelly. He loved the St Philips municipality and the village of Pelly. He was also a big supporter and head of the committee operating the Pelly Seniors Drop In Centre for many years. Bingos were a great Saturday evening event at the Centre..." "...He was instrumental in compiling the Pelly and St Philips history book....this work was done in the 90..." "...The history book was called "History Coming Alive", R.M. of St. Philips, Pelly and District..."s



10. **Larry Strukoff, student:** *"...Larry enjoyed a career as a heavy-duty mechanic and would take on any home project" big or small "as evidenced by his collection of stained t-shirts..."*

11. **Tannis Eillen (nee Strukoff), Student:** *"... was born on May 4, 1937 in the Pelly District to John and Polly Strukoff. She lived on a farm along with her parents and her two younger brothers, Larry and William. Tannis received her education from Lister Country School and later attended the Pelly High School, graduating in 1956. After high school, Tannis moved to Winnipeg to attend a Commercial College and worked in Winnipeg for several years. She later moved to Santa Monica, California where she resided for many years and worked in the banking system. In 1975, Tannis moved back to Winnipeg and then eventually relocated back to Kamsack. In 1987, she received her Certification as a Licensed Cosmetologist and worked at local hair salons. She eventually opened Haircourt Beauty Salon, her home-based business..."*



12. **William Strukoff, Student :** *"...Bill received his early education at Lister school and later in the village of Pelly. Upon graduation, he trained as a lab and x-ray technologist and served in lab and x-ray units in many hospitals in Manitoba, Carberry, Pine Falls, Portage la Prairie, Killarney and finally in Swan River..."*



e. **Maloneck**

1. Location: SD 3669, SW Sec. 29, Tsp. 35, Rge. 31, W1st

2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly

1. **Cassie (nee Popoff) Rogoski LPN, student reports:** *"...My brother Paul, aged 8 and I, age 7 started school late but we were together which was a comfort due to the fact that we did not speak English. My father having previously travelled around the area selling Watkins products had a fairly good grasp of the language. He was the one that spoke with the teacher, Miss Brodie and gave her all the information about us. It was a daunting first few weeks with us only speaking Russian and we kept to ourselves. With Miss Brodie working with Paul and I on learning to speak English, to read*

and print at lunch and recess times we progressed well. Before too long we were able to communicate somewhat with the other kids and did not feel so ostracized.

For those who have never been in a country school house, you would think it looked like a regular house looking at it from the outside. Inside there was a cloakroom for coats, a wash basin stand and jug of water. No bathroom, but there was an outhouse situated between the school and teacherage. You never spent much time in there, too smelly in summer and too cold in winter. In the main room there were two windows on the left side where the younger kids sat in smaller desks with pull out drawers. To the right there were larger desks with lift tops, and all the wall was windows providing most of the light to the room. There was a big pot-bellied stove with wood along side it and a blackboard behind the teacher's desk. I would say there were at least 15-18 students at that time, as it appeared all the desks were being occupied. I'm quite certain that the Delattre girls, Jane, Alice, Eileen and maybe Joyce, Alan Hymers and his brother James, Judy Kabatoff and Emily Bugutsky went to Maloneck school as well and they later transferred to Pelly.

I do not recall that recesses were organized as far as doing any group activity. Perhaps the older kids played ball and others played on the swings. Winter recesses were different due to the cold weather. Sometimes the teacher assigned an older grade 8 student to be in charge of the room when she left to go to the teacherage. This was the time when the older boys would chase the older girls around the room, drag them into the cloakroom and lock the door. Lots of yelling and screaming took place. This exercise was both scary and entertaining for us younger kids. The cloakroom was used for discipline as well.... the strap and usually on the older boys.

Miss Brodie had to maintain discipline, and try to teach the different grades during the day maintaining the curriculum for each grade. Equally as important she had to manage the schoolhouse, heating it up before school started in winter, arrange for janitorial and outside work.

Transportation to the school mostly were our feet right up to the warmer winter months. We lived two miles from the school, and we walked with the older girls across the road from us. On real cold winter days, our dad would take us in a heated caboose picking up others at the one-mile corner. On warmer days he hitched up the sled, or we walked. It was a difficult walk doing four miles a day for us smaller kids especially in heavy snow. Sometimes I peed my pants making me feel even colder.

That fall my dad took ill and he was flown to Regina from Swan River. No more caboose or sled rides for us. In March of that year as I was walking home, the neighbour living on the mile corner called me in to tell me that Regina had called to tell her that my dad had died and to go home and tell my mother. I remember like yesterday, crying all the way home. It was a sad ending to our farm life.

At the end of the year both Paul and I could speak, read and print in English quite well, me more so than Paul, however he was better in arithmetic. I made a lifelong friend at that school, Annie Sookavieff. At first she would tell me to get lost and run from me as she was in grade two and could speak English. I was dressed funny, brown ugly stockings, brown shoes and being so fair, I looked like an albino looking different than others. As the year went on, we became friends and we hooked up again later in the Pelly school. That summer our farm was sold and we moved to Sunny Isle to my grandfather's place for the summer holidays while our house was being moved to Pelly.

f. **Maybridge**

1. Location: SD 2797, Sec. ?, Tp. 35, Rge 32, W1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly
 1. **Jayne and Gladys Dedio, Ivan and Ralph Hurd, Fred Chernoff were students here**
 2. **Ella (nee Chernoff) Klimm, student in this school:**

- a. "....*Maybridge* School was grade one to eight. I remember getting water from the well and filling the water cooler. I also remember after school being assigned to cleaning the brushes and blackboard. That spring day I cleaned the brushes as quick as I could I was afraid to go home alone which was a mile walk. There had been reports of a bear. After brushes and blackboard



cleaned I made my way to the road only to find everyone running back to school. They had seen a mother bear and two cubs. We all waited for about a half hour and then proceeded home. No more bear sightings and I never walked alone. Some of the teachers I had were *Mrs Kazakoff, Mr. Hudson, and Mr. Korneychuk. Mr. Korneychuk* helped us celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. *It's a small world!..."*

- b. *".....When I attended Pelly School Mr. Negræff was principal. He taught math. Well one day he asks me to go to the blackboard and show the class how to solve the problem. I couldn't and was sent back to the desk with the comment," hang your hat on your weekend....."*
- c. *".....Years later when I was the administrator for the Village of Pelly Mr.Negræff came in to pay a bill and then said he forgot his wallet and would have to come back later I smiled and said," hang your hat in your weekend." We both laughed as he remembered. My education was municipal administration. *Ted's* was in carpentry....."*
- d. *Our children Tim was a grain buyer James is a maintenance person. Amy is a special needs teacher. Linda is a municipal administrator Anthony is working in the oil patch.*
- e. *Ted and I have been farming for 51 years. Moved back in 1974..."*

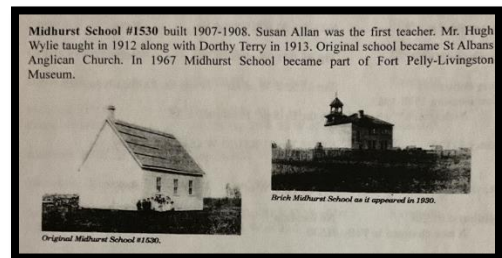
3. **Don Paluck, student at Maybridge speaks:**

- a. *"...I went to Maybridge school , north of Pelly. I lived 1/2 mile from school. walked to school.*
- b. *We farmed, some of the families were Raabels, Ladubecs,Spratts, Sushko, Kinakins, Chernoffs, Hurds , Russells. I don't have any photos.*
- c. *I spent 30 plus years in RCAF. I was a Loadmaster on numerous Aircraft ,but mainly on C130s*
- d. *I had two sisters Bertha and Sharon. Also I flew on C47 Dakota and C115 Buffalo and C130 Hercules.,,"*



g. Midhurst

- 1. Location: SD 1530, NE Sec. 36, Tsp. 33, Rge. 33, W1st
- 2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly
- 3. Name Change from Midhurst to Pelly
- 4. See Pelly for continuance.....



h. Millroad

- 1. Location: SD 4983, Sec. ?. Tsp. 35, Rge. 31, W1st
- 2. Near

i. Miry Creek

- 1. Location; SD 438, NW sec. 7. Tsp. 33, Rge. 32, W1st
- 2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly

j. Pelly

1. Location: Junction Highway 49 and 22

2. Author notes: ".....At Village of Pelly Saskatchewan

The school boasted four (4) classrooms. The Lower Left taught grades 4 through 6 incl. Lower Right taught grades 7 and 8 incl. Upper Tight taught grades 9 to 10 incl. Upper Left taught grades 11 through 12 incl. Staff for grades 9 through 12 had three (3) educators that taught their speciality subjects and moved from classroom to classroom. This building became the Pelly Museum and unfortunately was destroyed by fire.



*The 1957 staff for grades 9 – 12 were **Mr. Shanks**, principal, **Daisy Nelson**, Vice Principal and **Peter Negraeff**. A High School was constructed to house grades 9*



-12 and opened in the Fall of 1957. The same staff and all the grades moved from the 4-room brick building to this new school.



All the grades are now consolidated in the Fort Livingstone School on the right. All the grades are consolidated in the Fort Livingstone School on a new site located at the East end of Pelly.



Schools in Pelly are shut down now and all students are bussed to Norquay since 2017.

1. **Merle Campbell, student, author's note:**

Merle's family farmed about three (3) miles West of the Verigin farm. Most farmers in the 1950s were brush-breaking and bringing more agricultural land into production. This meant removing the trees, using a "breaker" to turn the virgin earth. This was followed by using a special "disk" that broke up the furrow. The result would be many roots that needed to be gathered and burned so that the ground could be seeded. The farm children came to school after the Summer Break with the usual assignment "write a 500-word Essay on what you did this Summer". Merle, did his composition and wrote 'This Summer, I picked roots, roost, roots, 500 times' and handed it in. His teacher commented the next day 'Merle, that was not much of an essay' to which he answered, 'it wasn't much of a summer neither.' Merle's fame as an author, quickly arose in Pelly School notoriety. Garry Weight was able to find this photo of Merle carrying Garry's sister Thelma from her house to Pelly School/



2. **Richard (Dick) Dundas, Student as related by sister**

Pamela: "...Dick took Forestry Engineering in Fredericton, NB. He met a Feng, working around Pelly, became interested in FEng, the fellow was a grad from UNB thus Dick applied and was accepted. He stayed until Christmas, homesick, returned to Sask., and applied to RCMP to work in communications, 35 yrs retired. Married a Newfie gal remained in NL Until his passing..."

".... Dick spent most of his 35 year R.C.M.P. career in Newfoundland, and retired as Staff Sgt...."



3. **Student Pamela (nee Dundas) Koschinsky RN:**



1. *"...This is a 1952 class photo the Grades 4 through 6 inclusive at the Pelly School: Standing at the blackboard from L to R are: Can you name everyone in the pic? Dick is sitting, second last row with Melvin Shell (Ranger's son , they left soon after.) 8/10/23, 7:31 AM*

I'm sitting with Katie Sopoff, Also, I'm in last row seated...."

".....did not graduate in Pelly, instead Victoria. I took my RN there then longed to be back nearer home, returned to Regina,



3. **Ken Fertuck, student: The Author served as a special Project Manager for BC Travel Industry Subsidiary Agreement (TIDSA). One Project took me in 1983 to the Harbour Front Development at Port Alberni, B.C. This incident took place as follows:**

"...It was that meeting that I noted that the Committee Member from the Harbor Commission seemed to passively study me the entire meeting as the Committee set up a schedule that included approval of drawings and going to tender, etc., the normal project process so that I could recommend to Brian that we were now "on track". After the meeting the Harbor Commissioner walked up to me and invited me to see his Harbor operation. I kept wondering how this was to "unfold" but I readily agreed to follow his vehicle down to the Harbor. I went after him up the stairs and into the Harbor Master's office. There behind the desk sat a smiling man with an identity plate in front of him that said:

KEN FERTUCK
HARBORMASTER

The Harbor Commissioner asked, "do you know this man?" "The only Ken Fertuck that I know was a classmate of mine in Pelly, Saskatchewan" I blubbered, not believing my eyes and twenty-five (25) years made recognition difficult. "The same", came the response from the man behind the desk, smiling even more now "Well how in the blazes did a kid from the prairies get a job as Harbormaster on the coast," I questioned. "Well, I just wrote down on my resume, that I was a Stone-boat Captain in Saskatchewan and they considered that to be all the experience necessary for this job", as we all laughed uncontrollably. It is necessary to explain to those of you who are not "Stubble-Jumpers", that a stone-boat is approximately 6 feet x about 8 or 10 feet long built with 2 inch to 4 inch wood planks laid on two (2) 8 inch x 8 inch wood runners that is pulled behind a team of horses.

4. **Don Henderson, RCMP, student** *"...I attended Pelly School from grade one through grade twelve starting in 1949. In view of our proximity to school, two and a half blocks away, getting there was never an issue. Getting there on time was another matter considering that I had a tendency to drag my feet and wait till the first bell rang. During my years in school I attended four different school / buildings all being in the same school yard. Unfortunately, school was not my foray as*

as I was not academically inclined. I did enjoy many other aspects of school such as baseball, football, curling, hockey and in particular socializing with other students. I also liked the two days that we got off school, field day and teachers 'conference'.

Prior to graduating from school, I became quite fascinated with the R.C.M.P. I was further attracted to it as a profession when my brother joined the Force. After some further research and soul searching, I decided I would pursue the profession as well. In the fall of 1961, I applied to join the Force. I was accepted, however,



due to manpower limitations at the time, there was a delay of approximately one year. I did not start recruit training at "Depot Division" Regina till the fall of 1963. In the meantime, I was employed for short periods of time at;

1) Prairie Drum Reconditioning, Regina, reconditioning old Old 45-gallon oil drums.

2) Saskco-operative Creamery.

3) Pelly Gulf Oil Bulk Station delivering fuel and hauling grain with both businesses run by my father.

I served in the Force for the better part of 28 years starting at the rank of third class Constable and retiring in August of 1991 at the rank of Staff Sargent. Most of my service was in plain clothes duties starting as an investigator and rising through the ranks to the level of Staff Sargent in charge of major investigations. I served in several different locations in B.C., such as : Burnaby, Vancouver, Prince George, and Kamloops on units such as GIS , Auto theft , Counterfeit, Drugs, and Motorcycle gang investigation. I served as Watch Commander for the last four years before my retirement in 1991.

Upon retirement I signed on with ICBC as a Special Constable in the Fraud Investigation Unit, retiring in 2002. In 2003 I worked for one year doing various investigations for the B.C. Lotteries Corporation

5. **Ken Henderson, student** "...worked for a company called Standard Brands for a short time, and then he went into nursing, worked at Misericordia, went on a vacation to Vancouver and never came back. He worked as a VON till retirement. He and Jack McDermott were roommates at first and Jack liked to party a lot, and when he did, he liked to phone people. One Sat Annie and I were there, and we called Debbie Reynolds, she was very pleasant, asked about Canada, what we did, and to make sure to see her movie which was playing at the time. Ken was not happy; it was an expensive long-distance call....."



6. **Student John R. Khadekin, from Google:** "...Born on a farm near Pelly, Saskatchewan on 11 June 1930, son of [John Khadekin](#) (?-1974) and [Mary Khadekin](#) (?-1978), he attended Lister School until the eighth grade then took his high education at Pelly, graduating in June 1947 at the age of 16. He then received a teaching certificate then taught at [Lister School](#), [Pines School](#), and in [Brandon](#). He entered the University of Saskatchewan in 1949 and graduated with a BEd degree in 1952. He later completed a MEd degree at the University of Toronto. He taught high school at [Veregin](#), Saskatchewan for three years then served as the Principal of [Benito School](#) (1955-1969). He was the Assiniboine Superintendent of the [Swan Valley School Division](#) (1969-1981) until moving to the new position of Principal at [Arran](#), Saskatchewan in 1981. He and his wife Mary had three children. While living in Benito, he was a member of the [Benito Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Benito town council](#). He died at Regina, Saskatchewan on 6 April 1983...."

7. **Comment from his son Kenneth, December 28, 2025,,,** "Dad had Degrees...BSc...U of S. Saskatoon....BEd. U of S Saskatoon both complete by time he was 20 or 21 years oldMEd. U of T....Dad graduated High School by 16...U of S would not admit him at that age.....did at least one year of normal school maybe more

8. Gordon L. Klimm, student, bused to Pelly from Sunnyside School area:

"...Gordon L. Klimm has been practicing law for over 43 years and has established himself as an accomplished attorney in various towns throughout Saskatchewan, including Tisdale, Melfort, and Porcupine Plain. He is a founding member and co-owner of Klimm McKee Law, located in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. There, he specializes in corporate and commercial real estate and general legal practice matters. Clients who require legal advice or representation in these areas can rely on Gordon's expertise and experience to help them achieve their desired outcome. Gordon received his law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1973 and has since been actively practicing law. Throughout his distinguished career, he has helped numerous clients solve their legal issues with professionalism, dedication, and exceptional knowledge of the law. In addition to his work in Fort Saskatchewan, Gordon also provides legal services in Melfort, where he serves as an attorney, and Porcupine Plain, where he has been providing legal services for over four decades. His clients in these towns seek his counsel regarding general practice matters, commercial real estate, and wills. Gordon's commitment to his clients and his exceptional track record has earned him a reputation as a well-respected attorney in the legal industry. He is a member of the Law Society of Saskatchewan and remains dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in his profession...."



9. Peter Legebokoff, student: *"... After a year or two at Sunny Isle we moved to the village of Pelly where I finished the elementary grades and entered the high school grades on the second floor of the 4 room brick structure. The building eventually became a museum until it was destroyed by a vandalism fire which also consumed a desk that I had my name carved on.*

But the story that I want to share starts back at Racing Lake school where Jim Berekoff and I started school in grade one not knowing a word of English. Jim did all his elementary grades there and our paths met again when he moved to Pelly to begin grade nine. Following our graduation in 1956, Jim went to Normal school while I drifted off in a different direction. When Jim finished Normal school, he took his first teaching job at his Alma Mater, Racing Lake. Amazing case of how life events can come around full circle. Gone were the horse barns, the kerosene lamps, wood stoves and outdoor biffies, replaced now with cars, electric lights, oil heat and primitive indoor toilets. Jim worked at that school a year or so and returned to Saskatoon to pursue what became a career of a lifetime educator, teaching grade 8 in the same room in the same school till retirement. Jim and I remained lifelong friends, even though we had different careers. Jim has predeceased me by many years but remains as one of the most significant persons in my whole life. An accomplished oil painter Jim gifted me with an image of us trudging to school together on a snowy Pelly day with my house in the background.

My own career was in psychiatric nursing, a popular choice of many small town Saskatchewan youth who came together in Weyburn, a prairie setting so foreign to my early experience. Here we were paid while we learned and worked, advancing to lifetime employment in the Saskatchewan Health system. I have no regrets.

Why didn't I follow Jim to university? I was weak in math, failed Trigonometry. Jim coached me through successfully, but I don't think I could have handled university level math. Little did I know I could have taken Sciences. I was strong in Biology, Chemistry and English. Due to the lack of any academic counselling available to us at the time, I might have pursued something different..."



10. Student Roberta (nee MacLise) MacDonald, Student, Valedictorian in her 1958 graduating class: *"...Roberta had many adventures throughout her life,*

including several European tours, being voted Queen of Agriculture during university, and even a stint in Los Angeles, CA, after university where she dated a stunt double from the movies. After Los Angeles, Roberta returned to Pelly, SK, where she met and married her husband of 56 years, Peter McDonald.

In addition to having a family of her own, Roberta enjoyed renovating houses wherever they relocated. Roberta had various careers throughout her life from teacher to real estate agent, to political nominee, to accountant, to tax consultant, and finally to writing.

Ever the advocate for lifelong learning, Roberta distinguished herself by earning three degrees, her last one in Library Sciences at the University of Calgary, in which she graduated alongside her daughter. When their kids finally left the nest, Roberta and Peter started their next adventure as farmers east of Edmonton, AB, at Antler Lake.

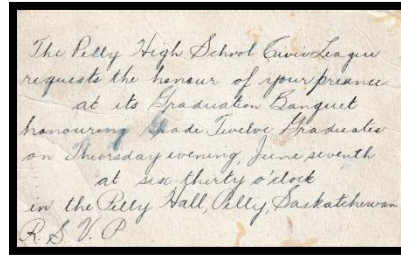


Roberta's other passion was dancing. This was always an integral part of family gatherings, which were also a priority. Roberta took years of dance classes and, along with Peter, became an admirable ballroom dancer....."

11. Jayne (nee Dedio) Paluck, student: "...went to Teacher's College and then taught at Racing Lake School and for awhile Grade 9 at Pelly..."



12. 1958 Grade 12 Graduation Grade Ceremonies Invitation:



13. Pelly Grade 12 Graduating Class of June 1958 from Yearbook

James Boyd Pelly	Helen Brennan Racing Lake Psychiatric Nursing	Fred Chernoff Maybridge Educator	Lloyd Davidson Pines Credit Union Mgr.	Gladys Dedio Maybridge Educator	Hene Derniski Psychiatric Nursing	Richard Dundas Pelly RCMP
Kenneth Henderson Pelly VON Nursing	Ralph Hurd Maybridge Educator	Roberta MacLise Devonshire Educator	Anton Pryslak Pelly Geologist	Vivian Slastukin Pelly Insurance	Elmer Verigin Pelly Civil Engineer	Sylvia Wonito Pelly Canadian Army



**Mr. A. Pushkarenko, BA., BEd.
Grade 12 Home Room
School Principa**

14. 1957-58 Pelly School Student Council – From Yearbook



Back: (left to right)		
Anton Pryslak	----- Grade 12	Representati
Nick Strukoff	----- Grade 11	Representati
Lloyd Vanin	----- Grade 10	Representati
Billy Strukoff	----- Grade 9	Representati
Front row:		
Gladys Dedio	----- Treasurer	
Dick Dundas	----- Secretary	
Elmer Verigin	----- President	
Erine Paluck	----- Vice-President	

15. **John Popoff, Student** who took Elementary School in Smerenia and then completed High School in Pelly. He went on to the University of Saskatchewan to graduate as an Agricultural Engineer

16. **Anton (Tony) Pryslak, Student** achieved a MScGEO at the U of S

“...VANCOUVER, BC / ACCESSWIRE / November 2, 2018 / BTU METALS CORP. ("BTU" or the "Company") (BTU-TSX:V) is pleased to welcome Mr. Tony Pryslak to its Advisory Board effective immediately. Mr. Pryslak is an institution in the Red Lake camp having been working in NW Ontario since the 1960s including holding increasingly senior posts as mapper and Resident Geologist in Red Lake. In addition, Mr. Pryslak has held senior geological positions at major corporations, including posts with Abitibi-Price and BP Minerals and as a consulting geologist to Goldcorp and Rubicon. _



Mr. Pryslak's 50 years' experience at Red Lake includes work in recent years consulting with BTU's vendor of the recently acquired Dixie Halo South project. BTU Director and geologist Doug Hunter stated "Mr. Pryslak is a highly esteemed geologist with a significant pedigree throughout Canada and within the Red Lake district in particular. One of the first to map the Dixie area, Tony identified the hinge offset in 2014-15, pre Great Bear's discovery, and its importance to BTU's newly acquired Dixie Halo South project. His concept of an offset, faulted and tracing down southwest from Great Bear is significant knowledge for BTU. Work has now begun towards proofing this theory by following structures confirmed by the recent Fugro Airborne survey....".

17. **Barry Robson, Student: (from Obituary):** “...Known as a cherished community member, he was recognized in local, including being listed in 2010 among those honored for a Century Family Farm award. He was associated with the local farming community, recognized for the family farm's 100-year history.



18. **Student Cassie (nee Popoff) Rogoski, LPN,**

“.... Transitioning to Pelly School I had pneumonia at age twelve and spent some time in Kamsack Hospital. It was then that I started to dream of becoming a nurse simply because I loved the white shoes, white stockings and white uniform. At the time it was very unlikely that would happen due lack of money, but thanks to my brother Paul, it happened. I spent most of my years between working in Winnipeg at Women's Centre, on obstetrics, then as a cardiac catheterization technician for Dr. G. Cumming, cardiologist at Children's, back at Women's after having my daughter as a casual and ending my working life working at RBC processing centre just for a change went into Wpg after school...”



19. Students Cassie Rogoski and Don Henderson Pelly school 1957 Class

Note from Garry Wright: "...Walter Soltz is not missing, he is in the back row between Larry Barabanoff and Don Henderson..."



Back row (left to right):
Garry Moroz, Margaret Slastukin, Joan Chutskoff, Madelyn Legebokoff, Cassie Popoff, Lawrence McDermott, Frank Hrabchak, Garry Wright, Steve Gontar, Larry Barabanoff, Don Henderson, Bruce Martin.
Next row: Mervin Rowden, Byron Nystrom, Helen Stratyckuk, Doreen Kratchkowsky, Lizzie Fehr, Georgina Boyd, Elaine Sausser, Frances Kaminski, Betty Brandon, Evenell Gray, Robert Campbell, Roger Honig, Philip Johnson, Terry Goulding, Ronald Chikmoroff.
Front row: Raymond Honig, Paul Popoff.
Missing: Eddy Battams, Merla Dooley, Walter Saltys.

20. Need info on Principal Pat Shukin

21. Dr. Fred A. Strukoff, student, author information: "...After graduation, Fred, worked at the Sanitorium in Weyburn, Saskatchewan for a few years. He then decided to attend a Chiropractic College and graduated as a Chiropractor. He opened an office in Kamsack and spent his entire career there..."



22. Tannis (nee Popoff) Strukoff, student: "...Tannis was born April 26, 1938, in Kamsack, Saskatchewan. She began her education at Smerenia country school, and graduated high school in Pelly, Saskatchewan. She obtained her Standard Teaching Certificate in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in June of 1958. On August 2, 1958, she married Dr. Fred Strukoff, the new chiropractor in Kamsack. They decided to make their home there. After teaching for one year, in a one room country school, she and Fred started their family. She loved her teaching career, but was an even more devoted wife and mother, delighting in raising their four children. She also worked part-time, with her husband and son, at the Strukoff Chiropractic Clinic, and became involved with her greater community. She taught 4-H, served on the local school board and town council, and in various capacities with the Doukhobor Society. She was a voracious reader, a passionate gardener, and a woman of deep faith. She also loved journaling daily, writing poetry, and was a meticulous, self-taught bookkeeper. Tannis will also be forever remembered for her sincere hospitality. She welcomed all phone calls and personal visits from her numerous, dear friends and family members; and she always offered them some of her delicious, traditional Doukhobor cooking or baking before they left her home."



23. Need info on Principal Walter Strukoff Jr.

24. Judy (nee Strelioff) Trofemenkoff BScN, Student: "...attended Smerenia School; before completing her high school in Pelly. Judy went on to Nursing and achieved her RN. (Author not sure where she took her Nursing Training)"



25. Elmer Verigin BScCE, Student

1. "... Moved from Veregin to Pelly Primary in November 1947
2. Graduated in grade 12 June 1958 in the "new" Pelly High School.
3. Undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering at U of S in 1961, Graduate degree in Civil Engineering in 1963
4. Admitted to APEG of BC in 1965...."
5. Served as Project Engineer at Columbia Cellulose Sulfite Pulp Mill in Prince Rupert, B.C., 1963 - 65
6. President of Verigin Industries Limited in Trail, B.C. followed by President of Marbella Pacific Construction Ltd
7. Retired from E. Verigin Consultants Ltd 1993 - 2020
8. APEDGS of BC Award
9. More information is posted on my blog: Elmer Verigin Blog.



26. Student Garry W. Wright writes:

1. "...My sister Thelma's class, not sure of year. I recognize most, including Wing Yee in the back corner. I think the teacher was Rathgeber.
2. EWV note: The year was 1952
3. Author confirmation: "...The Teacher was Rathgeber..."
4. Author note: "...Thelma Wright is in the front row on the right, followed by Blanche Fertuck...."
5. "...I can share one school story with you. In about grade 5 or 6 our teacher (Miss Cherwyck) and Miss Strilchuk's room were hosting a combined Friday afternoon social in our classroom. They decided to entertain us with a vocal duet. After a few verses, they decided to stop. Me being a smart ass asked, "what's the matter, got a frog in your throat"? My punishment was to go home and write my name a thousand times. Next morning I handed in my batch of papers with my name written a thousand times. She, Miss Cherwyck, took the papers and tossed them in the waste basket. I was devastated. All that time spent writing my name and she just tossed my efforts in the waste basket. I think a lesson was learned. Don't be a smart ass...."
6. "...Pelly school closed in 2017. I also found that St. Philips Residential school closed in 1969..."



"...Personal story from Garry is pending...."

- ## 27. Lawrence Verigin, Student:
- "... left the farm after grade 10 and went West to British Columbia where he was employed as a Carpenter on the Waneta Dam near Trail, B.C. He saw an opportunity to incorporate a House-Building company and invited his bother Russel to join him. Lawrence had special skills that broadened into a Craftsman ability. A Sash and Door operation was purchased to augment the company that was later developed into a Millwork Plant that supplied Hospitals, Schools and Care Facilities around the Province. The remaining brother, Elmer was invited to bring his Civil Engineering education which contributed the company's ability to enter Development Projects. This satisfied the initial desire for the Verigin Family to work as a unit for over thirty-five (35) years.



28. Russel Verigin, Student: "...graduated from grade 12 and wanted to go to university, but the farm could not afford that. He followed his older brother Lawrence to the Kootenays of British Columbia where they formed a house building construction company. As their reputation became known, Russel became a Journeyman Carpenter and acquired Superintendent skills where he developed: Shopping Center and Hotel at Elkford, B.C. along with a Town Center and three (3) Apartments. A ninety-eight (98) unit Town house project in Trail, B.C. Erected twenty-nine (29) International Pavilions at Expo '86 in Vancouver, B.C. Managed construction of Whatshan Lake Retreat and trained fifteen (15) first Year Carpenter Apprentices, Many other Projects as well.



29. Conrad Vogel, Student (taken from Obituary): "...Conrad was born on the Pelly farm to Michael & Levina Vogel (nee Danylchuk). Conrad was the 1st of 3 children, including sisters Randi & Dianne. Conrad was raised on the family farm east of Pelly. He attended & graduated from Pelly school. Conrad married the love of his life Alice DeLaittre on May 19, 1962. He liked to joke that he got married at 19 & quickly turned 20 and had 2 children, Terry & Donna, before he turned 21. The family lived on a farm SE of Pelly until the fall of 1962. During their first 2 years of marriage the family moved a few times, including to Williams Lake, BC where Conrad was employed at the lumber mill & Churchbridge, SK where he was employed at the Potash Mine. In 1966 the family moved to the Vogel family farm where Conrad lived for the rest of his life. Conrad loved his horses & cattle. He rode horses until the fall of 2023. He retired from cattle ranching after 70 years of calving. Almost every dog on the farm was named Flicka, except that 1 Rusty! In the early 90s Conrad started an elk ranch in partnership with his son Terry & neighbor Greg Savenkoff. Conrad was a part of many associations. He was a RM of St. Phillips Councillor & Deputy Reeve for 31 years. Over the years he was a member of the Pelly Lions Club & Pelly Jamboree Committee, a Gateway Co-op delegate, Kamsack Credit Union Director and a member of the Canadian Charolais Association. Conrad's 2nd passion, after Alice, was horses. He was on EVERY local horse club. He was part of & arranged many trail rides, even outside our Pelly area. He talked many times about his horse trips to the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch in Alberta & to Cypress Hills, SK. Every visitor to the farm had to see the horses & if he sensed you were interested in riding, he threw you on one. Conrad loved to travel. He often talked about his trips to Nashville, Arizona, Las Vegas, Texas & Hawaii. After 53 years of marriage,...."



k. Pines

1. Location: NE Sec., 31, Tsp. 32, Rge., 32 (1912 – 1915)
 1. Moved to SW Sec 7, Tsp. 32, Rge. 32 (1915 – 1962)
2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly
3. **From Google:** "...PINES School District 438 Northeast quarter of section 31 township 32 Range 32, then in 1915, the school was moved to the southwest quarter of section 7 township 33 range 32. In 1911 - First Teacher was **John V. Malise** at a salary of \$650. New school built in 1912. The school was moved..."
 1. **John R. Khadekin** taught school here
 2. **Allan Paluck and his siblings attended school here**

l. Prairie Valley

1. Location: NW Sec. 25, Tsp. 33, Rge., 33
2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly
3. **Cassie (nee Popoff) Rogiski, Student LPN reports:** "...Re : Prairie Valley school Mr . Brandon came into Pelly to teach when that school closed..."

m. Racing Lake

1. Location: SD 2206, SE Sec. 29, Tsp. 34, Rge. 31, W1st
2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly
 1. From Google : Built in 1909. First Teacher was **Miss McLeaughen** for five months then Joseph Lambe. Inspector was **Mr. Myers**

2. **Iris Krochak-Johnson writes:**“ *Racing Lake School students: Minnie (nee Boyko) and her husband John Kinaschuk from the R.M. of Mossey River, MB moved to the Arran, SK. area, married in 1928 and moved to the Racing Lake School District in search of better farm land. Over the years they had 4 children Albina, Eugene, Vernon and Victor! The children all attended the Racing Lake School, Albina for 7 years as an example! In the fall of 1942 John went to work, so as to supplement his farming income, to the Hamilton Ontario area where he totally enjoyed the area. When John returned to Saskatchewan upon him completing his work in Ontario, John sold the farm in the Racing Lake School District and the entire family moved to Hamilton, Ontario where they obtained employment and the children attended school and University. All married and had children and life continues!! Written & written by Iris (nee Krochak) Johnson (The above info was shared by Albina, and Victor in the spring 2008 with Iris Krochak-Johnson) Written & submitted by Iris (nee Krochak) Johnson....”*

3. **Peter Legebokoff, Student:** “...*Picture identification: Back row left -right: Walter Antifeav, Mike Chernoff, Alex Malakoe teacher, Mary Stanowski Florence Antifeav Next: Harry Gretchen, Eugene?? , Mary Dootoff, ??, ??Next: John Legebokoff(Peters bro) ??, Jim Berehoff partially hidden, ??, ??Next:Nick Nahornov ??, ??, Freddy Dootoff ??Next: Peter, Harry Melaka, Frances Dootoff , ??*



Racing Lake, my first one room school was located on highway 49, a few miles east and south of Pelly named for the nearby Lac La Course. It served the scattered farm families on both sides of the highway with the northern boundary being the Swan River. .” For reasons unclear to me I did not start school until I was 8 years old in 1944. My earliest recollections of going to school were walking on dewy wet trails and dirt roads in September carrying my lunch pail consisting of soggy tomato sandwiches, cucumbers and possibly hard boiled eggs accompanied by my older brother John We learned to read by the sight method forming words with tiny paper characters while at the same time learning English and cursive writing on lined paper. My first teacher was Alex Malakoff who had anglicized his name to Malako. His competence was questionable at best, and he was moonlighting selling life insurance policies to the local families. As winter came on, we were taken to school by horse and sleigh with many students coming on their own rigs and putting the horses in the school barn for the day. Christmas came with intensive training and practice of carols and small play acting. The Christmas concert was a memorable event with all the families crowded in to observe the shows and present gifts with Pete Rezsnssoff playing the role of Santa Claus. Alex Malakoe was very harsh with the strap and by today’s standards he would have faced charges of assault with a weapon. One boy in my class that I knew pooped his pants in fear of the strap. Malakoe eventually drifted off to sell insurance full-time and was replaced by Mr. Keneschuk who came to school wearing his army issue uniform pants. The occasional visit of the school superintendent was a momentous affair requiring everyone to be on their best behavior and full attention when this awesome figure dressed in a crisp business suit walked down up and down the rows. We came to know and appreciate the concepts of power, authority and prestige. A group picture of the class shows all the grades young and older with Alex Malakoe in the back row. I am at the extreme left in the front row. A hand cranked film projector proudly displayed in the front row belonged to the school but the more advanced audio visual one came with a film projectionist based in Kamsack who visited on a rotational basis. His name was Mr. Welykholowa....”

4. **Winnie (nee Slastukin) Dubasov, Student”....** *Racing Lake School 1948 - 1956.*



I started school at seven years of age, which was not unusual in those years, as many children were held back until they were seven or eight. We had a three-mile trip to the school, and in my case, my brother—who was one year older than I—had to be able to pedal me double on his bike.

The families in our area were mostly Russian, Ukrainian, English, and French-speaking. Many were not fluent in English when starting school, but I had no problem in that regard. School was most interesting—not only learning to read and write and learning about other countries and cultures but also having the opportunity to make friends. Farming families did not always have close neighbors nearby, and there was not much time after chores were done to go visiting.

The property where Racing Lake School was situated was approximately six acres in size. The school was located near the south side of the property, close to Highway 49. There were two outhouses—one for girls and one for boys—and a barn located on the north end of the property. There was also a teacherage on the east side where the teacher resided. Just east of the property, near the teacherage, was a good-sized body of water called Racing Lake, which is where the school got its name.

September and October were good months, with pleasant weather. The teacher often took us out on nature hikes in the area adjacent to the school grounds. We called this section the “school section.” It was mainly wooded with plenty of vegetation, including wild strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons, cranberries, and chokecherries—a great area to run and explore. Our sports consisted of fastball, football, skipping, and a variety of ball games.

November and December were exciting as we had fresh snowfall and began preparing for our Christmas concerts. We were well known for our entertaining and successful concerts, which always had a full house with standing room only. The concert consisted of Christmas carols, recitals, plays, acrobatic performances, and solos and duets by Eva and Lawrence Villeneuve, who played guitar and had wonderful singing voices. We always had a large, decorated Christmas tree awaiting Santa’s arrival at the end of the concert.

We enjoyed the two-week holiday after Christmas, although much colder weather usually arrived then. Going to the bathroom meant walking to the outhouse, which was about a city block away from the school. We had to put on all our outerwear—coats, hats, boots, and gloves—often hoping we would make it there on time. LOL.

On milder winter days, our entertainment was getting out on the lake. The older boys would clear the ice. Those of us who had skates would skate and play a form of hockey, while others went sliding on saucers made of cardboard. When the teacher rang the bell, we would be alerted to make a run back to the school and to class. That was such great fun.

Spring was always welcome, with milder weather and a return to outdoor sports around the school. We would begin practicing for track and field day, held at either Pelly or Arran. We competed in track events, broad and high jumping, ball throwing, and skipping. We were not a strong ball team, as the school had grades 1 to 8 and included all different ages. We all tried to bring ribbons home to show our families our achievements. I recall that if you received four first-place ribbons, you earned a crest, and that was quite an honor.

The last days of school at the end of June were sad, as we would not see most of the students again until the following term. But two months of holidays was also a happy thought.

In winter, our parents drove us to and from school in cold weather, usually in a van pulled by two horses or on a sled, also driven by horses. On milder days, we sometimes rode in a wagon attached to a tractor. Some of the older students rode horses to school and kept them in the barn during the day. It was much later that cars became available. We had that luxury by 1952.

One year, our teacher drove us to Madge Lake in his truck. Those allowed to make the trip rode in the truck box, with the smaller children seated in the cab with the teacher. We also went to Devonshire School, located six miles south of Pelly, for a fastball match. There were nine players and a teacher in the car, and when the doors opened, we literally fell out. That too was always fun, and we looked forward to those outings.

I had Mr. Markevich as my teacher for seven of the eight years I attended Racing Lake School. He was away for one year—either in my third or fourth grade—when Mike Kineschuk and Lucille Putsula shared the one-year term. Our school consisted of grades 1 to 8, and some years we even had a grade 9 student. Our class had approximately 30 students, with one teacher teaching all grades and no helpers.



We were checked by a school superintendent a couple of times a year. A traveling nurse came to give us vaccinations, and a projector man visited a few times a year to show us educational films. Those years at Racing Lake are most precious and memorable to me. In 2001, we had a school reunion that was very well attended. Eugene Kowaluk was in charge and had many helpers. It was held in Kamsack, and we were all sorry when it ended. I have personally kept in touch with many of those students since then.

Mr. Markevich was not able to attend the reunion. However, a few years later, my brother John, my sister Marge, and I located our teacher of many years. We took him out for lunch and brought him a booklet made up of memories and photos from his former students. He lived in Regina and, in later years, worked as a health inspector for the province of Saskatchewan.

To us, he was not only our educator but also a friend—someone we had great respect for. He will always remain in our memories. He passed away in 2017 at 91 years of age.

5. Racing Lake School Class Photo 1950 sent by Winnie:

- a. Front Row: Eva Villeneau, Eugene Kiwaluk, Laurence Villeneau, Joyce Hundzuk
- b. Second Row: Burl Brennan, Walter Kiwaluk, John Slastukin, Harold Kabatoff, Wayne Brennan
- c. Third Row: Vera Reznasoff, Frances Dutoff, Helen Kiwaluk, Helen Brennan, Winnie Slastukin
- d. Fourth Row: Fred Dutoff, Florence Antifeav, Mary Solomon, Eleanor Kabatoff
- e. Back Row: James Berikoff, Nick Nahornov, Mr. Markewich, Neil Brennan, Metro Markewich



6. Racing Lake School Class Photo Christmas Concert 1953 sent by Winnie:

- a. Front Row: Florence Slastukin, Karen Bloudoff, Agnes Kabatoff, Sylvia Kiwaluk, Margaret Slastukin, Larry Kruk, Lorraine Slastukon
- b. Second Row: Adeline Kruk, __?__, Rusell Lasko, Linda Lasko, Irene Chernenkoff, Joe Chernenkoff, Eva Villeneau
- c. Robery Bludodd, __?__, Burl Brennan, Wayne Brennan, Joyce Handzuk, Lillian Chernenkoff, Harold Kabatoff
- d. Back Row: John Slastukin, Mary Solomon, Hellen Brennan, Helen Kiiwaluk, , Vera Rezanosoff, Winnie Slastukin



7. Racing Lake School Class Photo Christmas Concert 1953 sent by Winnie:

- a. Bottom Row: Robert Bludoff, John Slastukin, Harold Kabatoff,
- b. Next Row: Helen Brennan (outside), Burl Brennan, Helen Kiwaluk, Walter Kiwaluk, Joe Chernenkoff, Top: Agnes Kabatoff



8. Racing Lake School Class Reunion in 2001 sent by Winnie:

- a. Front Row: Agnes Kabatoff, Flo Slastukin. Irene Chernenkoff, Lorraine Slastukin, Margaret Slastukin, Sylvia Kiwaluk
- b. Second Row: Emily Solomon, Lillian Chernenkoff, Joyce Handzuk, Eleanor Kabatoff, Frances Dutoff, Winnie Slastukin. Helen Kiwaluk, Hazel Slastukin, Mary Solomon
- c. Third Row: Jane Paluck (original Teacher) Eugene Kiwaluk
- d. Back Row: Larry Kruk, Allan Kondratoff, Russell Lasko, John Slastukin, Nick Nahornove, Arthur Kazdewich, Ross Prokopchuk



9. Racing Lake School Class Reunion in 2001 sent by Winnie:

- a. Front Row: Russell Lakso, Jane Paluck (original Teacher) That came from ___?___ School to Pelly and then graduated from Teacher's College, Eugene Kiwaluk
- b. Back Row: John Slastukin
- c. Winnie these former students were Jayne's "Teacher's Pets"



10. John F. Slastukin, student sent this Jayne Dedio (Teacher) photo:

- Back Row: Allan Kondratoff, Hazel Slastukin, Fanny Rezanoff, Florence Slastukin, Katie Slastukin, Lorraine Slastukin
- Second Row: Bernice Hanzuk, Eugene Prokopchuck, Larry Kruk, Irene Chernenkoff, Adeline Kruk
- Third row: Shirley Hanzuk, Linda Lasko, Darlene Beck, Stanley Solomon, Russell Lasko
- Fourth Row: Joe Chernenkoff, Eugene Kiwaluk,
- Last Row: Agnes Kabatoff, Margaret Slastukin, Eva Villeneuve, Phyllis Lask



John F. Slastukin, student "...In summer we walked or rode a bike. In the fall we walked through the school section up to the railroad bridge and ate cranberries and chokecherries. Sometimes when the was train coming, we would put a penny on the track and let the train ride over it. Then we would walk across Pete Chernenkoff's land onto ours and home Now it's much easier riding on a school bus to and from school..."

n. **St. Basicilian**

1. Location: SD 103, NE Sec. 12 Tsp., 31,32, W1st
2. Location: SD 103, NE Sec. 12 Tsp., 31,32, W1st
3. Nearest Settlement: Pelly
4. Indigenous Catholic School from Google:

"....This area at first was primitive forest of the Saulteaux tribe South and East of Fort Pelly, a Hudson's Bay trading post. A missionary Father Dec orby first built a school for the Indians. In 1913 a school was built which stood for forty-three years. S. Lebowski was the first teacher. In 1945 the St. Basicilian School became part of the Kamsack School Unit. Six miles SE of Ft. Pelly, a Hudson's Bay Trading Post. The area was a primitive forest with deer, moose, elk, and other wild animals...."

o. **Sunnyisle**

1. From Google: *"....Location: School district 847 north east corner of the SE quarter of section 23 township 34 range 32 west of the 1 meridian moved to northeast section 24 township 34 range 32 west of the 1 meridian..."*
2. Nearest Settlement: Pelly

1. **Ted Klimm was a student** and here is his comments:

- a. *"....Teds recall of the Sunny Isle school was that it was moved from one stone pile to another. The only teacher he recalls was Mrs. Whetstone. Families that attended were as follows: Zarobins, Murray, Remezoff, Legebokoff, Culbertson, Andrusiak, Shawlynski, Wright, Jesson, Owserchuk, Brown, Shell, Klimm, Dorey. Going to school with horse and sleigh and Christmas concerts held in Sunny Isle Hall were memorable events.*
- b. *Ted carried on to High School in Pelly*
- c. *Ted took up the Carpentry Trade before coming back to the farm...."*



2. **Peter Legebokoff, student:** *After my 3 or 4 years at Racing Lake, our family moved to a much more distant farm on the north side of the Swan River valley this being served by Sunny Isle school . This was another one room school with the usual teacherage, and school barn located in a more open Stoney sandy country. A huge landscape from the river flats we left behind. The teacher here was much more pleasant than Mr. Malakoe. Her name was Mrs..Vokoroth.*

G) **Swan River Manitoba**

a. **Smokey Spruce**


1. Location: SD 5137, SE Sec. 32, Tsp. 36, Rge. 30, W2nd
2. Nearest Settlement: Swan River

1. **Author note:** *"...Fred Chernoff taught here as his first school after Teacher's College..."*

b. Swan Valley School District

1. John R. Khadekin BEd; Med; BA; Assistant Superintendent

Dedication



"Be his our special thanks,
whose even balanced soul,
Business can not make dull,
nor passion wild:
Who sees life steadily and
sees it whole."

Mr. John Khadekin, whose long and honoured service in education led him to the principalship of the Benito Collegiate, left our halls in June 1969 to assume the duties of Assistant-Superintendent of the Swan Valley School Division. He left behind him a legacy of kindness and dedication to purpose that will remain within all whom he worked with. Everyone joins in wishing Mr. Khadekin the greatest success in his new and responsible position.

c. Thunderhill School

1. Location: Thunder Hill School No. 1156 ([Municipality of Swan Valley West](#))
2. Nearest Settlement: Benito, Mb.

1. **From Google:** "....Thunder Hill School (no date) by [J. S. Peach](#)
Source: [Archives of Manitoba](#), School Inspectors Photographs, GR8461, A0233, C131-2, page 68.

2. *The [Thunder Hill School](#) District was established formally in July 1901 and a one-classroom wood frame building was erected the next year in what is now the [Municipality of Swan Valley West](#). By 1907 it was moved 3/4 miles north to this site. It served as a school, church, and social centre until 1926 when it was replaced by a new wood frame structure. The former schoolhouse was moved to a farm where, at the time of a 2015 site visit, it was being used for firewood storage. The school remained open until 1963 and the district was dissolved four years later. The former school building was moved to a farmyard at NE21-35-29W where it was used as a granary. A fieldstone monument, dedicated in July 1990, commemorates the school at its former site. Among the teachers of Thunder Hill School were Miss Minnie Edmond (1902) and [Mrs. Natalie Wilson](#) (1963)..".*



H) Veregin, Saskatchewan

a. Pretty View

1. Location: SD3391, NE Sec. 29, Tsp. 31, Rge; 1, W 2nd
2. Nearest Settlement: Veregin

1. **Deb Bates, student** – “...Not sure of the date of this gem but the beauty standing on the far right is **Mary Kezima** who is 101 years young and is still making quilts ❤️ from left **Juliana Allmersch, Florence Konkin, Joe Paluck, Bill Popoff, Bill Sernowski, Joe Yastremski, Nick Konkin, Richard Golay, Dora Konkin, Mary Kezima, Sitting: Helen Michaluk, Vera Konkin, Nora Reibin ...**”



2. **Marjorie Gehlen, Student** – “...My Mom and Dad, **Frank and Jeannette Hellegards**, homesteaded just south of **Pretty View**, approximately 4 miles. My brother **Ernie** and sister **Evelyne** attended **Pretty View School**. By the time I came along we had moved to **Veregin** and then to **Kamsack** in 1947. Nice to see it getting revived...”

3. **“...Scott Green, student-** “Well the white paint is on... Now some hot red lipstick is around the trims and she will look hot. Thanks, **Taber** for stepping help and volunteering to help me.... And also thanks **James Cymbalisty** for donating the use of your sprayer to get this done so quickly... “



4. **Items (iii) through (v) has been taken from the [Pretty View website](#). Thank you!**

5. **Lorne Lapshinoff, former student**, wrote this article:

“.....TITLE: Two and A Half Miles of Memory Lane.

I hate to admit it, but I have been around long enough to have attended a one room country school out in the middle of Saskatchewan’s eastern parkland. It was among the last farm schools in the province to be shut down so when I tell people about this, I emphasize this brief life experience was the result of our rural region rather than my age. And since most people who had this experience are a number of years older than I, that premise is valid.

Pretty View was the name of our farm school and in retrospect the view could have been better if you were able to actually see the valley and the creek to the south. But it was set in the picturesque gently rolling hills caught between the Whitesand River a couple miles south and the Assiniboine River a couple of miles north. And to me, that strip of land between those rivers is some of the most scenic countryside in Canada.

From the school, our farm was a mile south passed Roebuck’s farmyard which sat perched half way down the gentle southward slope overlooking the valley with the creek, and then across the bridge made of timbers covered in thick black creosote preservative you could smell from quite a distance on a hot day. Then west at Joss’s corner for another mile and a half through a small thickly wooded ravine then up a long and gentle slope leading to a marginally higher plateau and then yet another gentle valley before reaching our driveway lined with maple trees. Now that I stop to think about it, both ends of that trip had an upward incline so yes, my trip to farm school kind of was uphill both ways.

The road past our farm was not a main road so the surface was almost as much dirt as it was gravel and weeds would start to grow in the center between the tire tracks by the time the grader came around to move what little gravel there across to the other side. Tall prairie grass and wildflowers filled the shallow ditches and beyond them willow bushes, scraggly poplar trees and variety of berry bushes grew along the edge of fields of wheat and summer fallow enclosed by 3 strand barbed wire fences.

My older brother Bill and I biked those two and a half miles to school on what I remember being a pretty regular basis. We tried to time our morning arrival at the T-intersection of Joss’s corner to

meet up with Orest and John Boboski who rode to school in the luxury of a two wheeled horse drawn buggy. We could latch onto the sides of the buggy with one hand and not have to peddle the last mile along what was predominantly a sandy inclined road.

The bike ride back home had many distractions and reasons for being late. The bridge at the creek was a favorite stop of mine with adventures like catching tadpoles and frogs. Or just simply sitting quietly under the bridge smelling the combination of sunbaked grass, running water and creosote. It was a very calming place with the only sounds being the wind gently rustling the grass and leaves, the gurgling of the creek, the birds chirping and singing, and the occasional "plunk" of stones we would throw into the little pond. There was also plenty of wildlife to watch along the way including fox and raccoons who watched us curiously but refused to become friends. We were even once delayed by a skunk determined to have a typical leisurely walk all the way up the ravine hill. But the reason for the majority of our delays started the day we had to peddle into a rare south wind which made us thirsty right around Joss's corner. Fortunately, Joss's corner was named because that is where Gottlieb and Mary Joss lived. Our plan was to stop at their well and pump water for each other using our cupped hands to drink but we were spotted by them before we could reach their well and they insisted Kool-Aid in the house was a better idea. And of course, it was, especially with homemade cookies.

After that, we seemed to always be thirsty right around Joss's corner. Gottlieb's and Mary's children were grown and gone from home, and they were genuinely as happy to have us visit as we were to have our appetites spoiled with all sorts of Mary's treats and to have our minds filled with never-ending and captivating real-life stories from Gottlieb. The first couple times Mary called Mom to let her know where we were but soon Mom started calling the Joss's to scold us for bothering them so often and for being so long. But they seemed to wait for us most days and were disappointed if we just waved and rode by.

The Joss's are gone now and so is their farmyard as are the other neighbors' yards along that two-and-a-half-mile stretch. And even the north-south road has been straightened eliminating the part with the smelly bridge and the sandy hill. I plan to go back there one day to bike and walk that road and refresh my memories. I wonder if brother Bill is up for it.

-30-

- a. "...If I remember way back to my school bus days correctly (1965 --->), the radio station would announce if schools closed due to snowstorms and also which buses would not be running. Our bus originated in Pretty View, added Tolstoy and families along grid 637 north of Verigin, then added more students in Verigin before going on to Kamsack. Our bus driver was Peter Popoff, a great guy, a wonderful neighbour, and a man I still think of very highly. But on "snow days," I remember being angry at him. Because, when most other bus drivers decided to stay home, Pete always showed up. And although it angered me, it also made me admire him for his determination. Regardless of how bad the blizzard and how bad the road conditions were on those secondary prairie roads; Pete always got us safely to school and back again without incident. He would even plough through significant snow drifts on the long driveways connecting the farmyards to the road. He did it not just to save the kids from having to trudge through deep snow, but to break trail for the family in case they had to get out before the snow ploughs eventually came around. There was only one time when Pete took a corner too sharply and the dual rear wheels sank into a snowbank. And boy was he angry at that thought that he may have failed us and our parents. All us kids jumped out and took turns shoveling and digging with our hands then we pushed the bus with all our might while Pete rocked it back and forth. We did it not just to free the bus, but to help Pete keep his perfect record. We succeeded and Pete's record was saved. If they gave out trophies to bus drivers, Pete Popoff would have won every year.
- b. "...Once the farm schools closed, buses coming from all directions would gather in Verigin to drop off kids in grades 1 through 6, and for half of them that was the end of the line. But a few other buses, like ours, would add grade 7 through 12 students from Verigin and from the other buses and carry on to Kamsack. Our bus also picked up students from farms along the highway between Verigin and Kamsack. So while most other buses were referred to by where they originated, our bus was known far and wide

by all as Pete's bus. So I suggest that the title be simply **"Pete's Bus"** to not only keep with tradition but also in his honour..."

1. **Cliff Paluck, former student,**

"...My overseas job occurred by complete accident...being bored with life in Sparwood, B.C. + the ever present unhealthy coal dust made me think of seeking a new job elsewhere. So I decided to get a copy of the Vancouver Sun and see what teacher postings were out there. As it turned out there was an ad in the paper looking for Kindergarten teachers at an American School in the United Arab Emirates. I applied and got a job in Dubai...."

b. **Rona**

1. Location: SD 4436, Sec. ?. Tsp. 29, Rge. 1. W2nd
2. Nearest Settlement: Veregin
3. From Google: "...Opened May 17, 1932. First Teacher was Emil Yurkowski. School closed in 1967..."

c. **Smerenie**

1. Location: SD4584, SE Sec., Tsp., Rge, W2nd
2. Nearest Settlement: Veregin
3. **Student John Popoff:**

"...We were just over two miles from the school. We used every mode of transportation possible. WE walked in summer, even in the rain, sometimes were driven by car or tractor. In winter it was horses pulling, sleigh, cutter, stone boat, etc. Sometimes Horse pooled with neighbors. Rarely on horseback as there was always at least 3 of us.

Yes, my sister **Tannis** is gone as is my younger brother **Sam** and my older brother **Tom**. My youngest brother **Wes** was born when we moved to **Pelly**. Oh yes, in summer we did bicycle a fair bit to school I do recall the dreaded times when it rained during the day and we attempted to ride the bikes home. Road was dirt (mud) and the fenders jammed with mud, and we had to leave them on side of the road till it dried out and we had to clean the dirt out of the fenders with sticks or screw drivers.

On cold days in winter, we used a caboose drawn by team of horses. The caboose had a small stove in it fired with wood. Some of my fondest memories. Don't know how we did it - get up early in the morning, feed and harness the horses, fire up the stove in the caboose, hitch up the team and head out across the snow covered frozen fields.

The Local Families I recall were **Schrams (two families), Kuzma, Tomashewski, Seal, Negrych, Barisenkoff, Shiloff, Chornomedz, Palucks, Sakundiak, Maceck**, that attended Smerenie school at time that I did.

I have lost track of them all. Occasionally FB with Julia Mucha (nee Schram) now living in Edmonton. She was my sisters age and friend...."

"...Some of my teachers that I recall were: Mrs "Mickey" Paluk, Mrs Ewanik, Ann Dychko, Ron Hladun..."

"...One other teacher we had and I think my 1st grade was Mrs Burback. I recall her being mean (strict).

When the Superintendent Mr. Gorchinski popped in occasionally everybody esp. the teachers were on "pins and needles"

There was no electricity at the school just natural light from the large windows on the west side.

When the "Show Man" (Mr. Wleckholava) came around to show movies, the windows had to be covered with large back curtains which he carried with him. Power for the projector was supplied by a gas-powered generator which he also carried. It was the best time at school!

I also do remember near the end of each school year having wiener roast by the river, approx. 1/4 mile east of the school. So good as we rarely had anything like that at home. Not sure when the school closed but I suspect about 1960...." "...This is all that remains of the one room school I attended from 1948 to 1956..."



d. Tolstoi

1. Location: SD #4730, SE Sec.29, Tp30, Rge1, W2nd

2. Nearest settlement: [Verigin](#)

1. This photo was taken from a video posting on Saskatchewan Country Schools with a recent full video on [Tolstoi School](#)



2. **From Google:** "...The original Tolstoi School was located five (5) miles North of [Verigin](#) with the name of [White Sand School](#), but was moved to the current site in the early 1920s. The original school burned down in December 1928, rebuilt in 1929 and named [Tolstoy School](#) in memory of [Leo Tolstoy](#). First Teacher was [John A. Popoff](#). In 1960 students were bussed to [Verigin](#) and in 1980 the schools closed and students were bussed to [Kamsack](#). Other Grades followed and in August 1983 [Verigin School](#) closed..."

3. **Joe Fedosoff, a former student writes:**

- a. "...As a student at Tolstoi school in the 1940s I remember reflecting on the fact that after the first year of school I had more schooling than either my mom or my dad. I think that can be said of others in our area. So it can be said, without exaggeration, that while we were students we were also teachers---passing on what we learned to our uneducated parents. That is not minor. Teaching my dad English was one of my responsibilities and I remember dealing with lawyers at the age of nine when dad decided to buy the farm...."
- b. "...After my Tolstoi school days came grades nine and ten at Verigin High, then grades 11 and 12 at Kamsack High then four years at University to get my Chemical Engineering degree.
- c. Getting that degree didn't come cheap. Getting some kind of a job in the summer time became absolutely necessary. My jobs included street photography in Saskatoon, selling encyclopedias door to door on Hastings street in Vancouver, and picking fruit in the Okanogan Valley.
- d. After graduation, came a job at the salt plant which quickly escalated to plant management and then came an unexpected promotion to Head Office with a chance to manage all Sifto salt plants and mines in both Canada and USA.
- e. Things went well for me. Plenty of travel opportunities, good salary increases and many chances to meet dignitaries in many fields. Then came the downfall! Domtar decided to sell Sifto to a US competitor and I pulled a stupid blunder in the management of two subordinates. With absolutely no way to make amends I chose to retire.
- f. Enough about me.
- g. I had two sisters: Chris, who became a nurse, loved nursing and stuck with it until she died in her late sixties; and Verna who married Mike Verigin, had a son Michael, and missed out on many joys of life. Enough said...."



4. **Jason Morozoff**, son of **Allan Morozoff** who was a student, writes: Pending



5. **Wasył W Verigin Family Reunion 1975** (Note: “TS” behind each name is Tolstoy Student). Listings are in order of age in family.

a. **William, deceased, (Bill Verigin TS) Family:**

1. “...Front Row: Mark Verigin, **Annie (nee Morozoff) TS**, Geoff Verigin, Kenneth and Marianne Khadekin, Tamara (nee Verigin) Burk, Kimball Verigin
2. Middle Row: Mabel (nee Soloveoff) Verigin, Allan Verigin, Tillie (nee Cheveldave) Verigin, Danny Verigin, John Khadekin. Mary (nee Verigin), Ron Khadekin, Nona (nee Verigin) Kucher, Lori (nee Verigin) Woodhouse
3. Back Row: Lawrence, Russel, Brian, Elmer and Marilyn (nee Verishine) Verigin....



b. **Polly TS, deceased, (nee Verigin) Ratushny Family:**

1. “...L to R: Fred, Colleen (nee Ramsden), Kelly, Cory, Tany and Terry, Ratushny...”



c. **John TS, deceased, Verigin Family:**

1. :...Front Row: Murray Vherigin, Byron, Milton and **Eunice TS Hrooskin Verigin, Merelyn TS (nee Verigin) Hilt**
Back Row: **Vera TS (nee Soiukeroff), Peter TS** and Evelyn (nee Woykin), David, Darryl, Terrence **Verigin, Peter Hrooshkin TS, Frank Hilt...**



d. **Sam TS, deceased, Verigin Family:**

1. “...Front Row: Carol Horkoff, Beverly (nee Horkoff) Carlin, **Verna TS (nee Fedosoff), Valerie (nee Faye) Verigin, Shelley and Linda Verigin, Sidney Trofemenoff, Florence TS (nee Verigin) and Wayne Trofemenkoff.**
2. Back Row: Brian Carlin, and Shirley Horkoff, Danny, George, **Mildred TS (nee Verigin) Horkoff, Mike TS, Sam TS, Vera TS (nee Postnikoff) and Michael Verigin, Gary and Randy Trofemenkoff....**



e. Annie TS (nee Verigin) Popoff Family

1. "...L to R.: Pete, Annie TS (nee Verigin), Elaine Popoff..."



f. Alex TS Verigin



g. Jack Kazakoff Inducted as (Honorary) Verigin



h. Jack (nee Kazakoff) Honary Verigin, Head Shishliki Barb-B-Qer



i. Tolstoy Students that could not attend Verigin Family Reunion:

1. **Mary (Verigin) TS, Walter and family Strocen**, daughter of Sam Verigin TS
2. **George Verigin TS**, deceased, brother to William, Polly, Sam, John and Annie Verigin

6. Sam S Morozoff Family Reunion 1975 (Note: "TS" behind each name is Tolstoy Student)

a. Annie TS (nee Morozoff) Verigin Family: (see Verigin Family Reunion 5. (a))

b. Polly TS (nee Morozoff) Chernoff Family:

1. "... Fred, deceased, Chernoff
2. Jean (nee Chernoff) and Bruce Keillor, Polly TS (nee Morozoff) Chernoff, Nadia (nee Chernoff), Bruce, Karen and Craig Stevenson..."



c. Lillian TS (nee Morozoff) Sookochoff Family:

1. ".....Husband John and daughter Kathie, deceased
2. Missing is son Donny
3. Top L to R: Lucille Bruneau, Lillian (nee Morozoff) Sookochoff
4. Bottom: Lucille with Michelle and Trvor
5. Missing Neil Bruneau..."



d. Alex TS Morozoff Family

1. “...L to R: Alex (TS) Polly TS (nee Kazakoff) Morozoff, Valerie (nee Kabatoff), Lawrence TS and Corrie on L and Momica on Right.
2. Missing is *Allan Morozoff* TS, brother to Lawrence...”
 1. Photo from grandson Jason Morozoff April 30, 2026
 2. Left to Right:
 - a. Son Mathew, son Jason, wife Shirley, Allan Morozoff



e. Sam TS, deceased, Morozoff Family was unable to attend the Reunion:

1. L to R
2. Top Row: Sam Morozoff (TS), Dorothy (nee Markin)
3. Second Row: Lloyd, Virginia
4. Front Row: Laura, Joyce



f. Nick TS Morozoff Family:

1. L to R are Nick TS, Anne (nee Erickson), Carol and Michael Morozoff
2. Picture (on the left) of all the children
 1. L to R:
 2. Michael, Carol, Tim
3. Jane, Gordon



g. Florence TS (nee Morozoff) Markin Family (Daughter Kathy (nee Marken) McPhail sent this photo April 20, 2026: The entire family was unable to attend the Morozoff Reunion.

1. L to R at rear are Andrew and Florence (nee Morozoff) Marken
2. Second Row: Allan and Diane
3. Front Row: Kathy and Jerry



h. Nora TS (nee Morozoff) Chernoff Family:

1. “...Front Row: L to R: Elaine, David and Mark Peters
2. Back Row L to R: Nick, Nora TS (nee Morozoff 1st Cousin) Chernoff, Helen TS (nee Chernoff) Peters, Vera TS (nee Chernoff), Dan, Patrick, Noreen, Tammy and Larry Wassill...”



i. Mary TS (nee Osachoff) Shkuratoff

1. *"...Daughter of Polly Morozoff and Fred Osachoff*
2. *Neice of Sam S. Morozoff..."*



j. Mary TS (nee Morozoff) Family:

1. *"...Bill and Mary TS (nee Morozoff) Konkin..."*



k. John and Anne TS (nee Morozoff) Sookochoff

- l. *"...Anne is daughter of Elyooshka and brother of Summa Morozoff who Served 7 years of a 15 Year sentence in Yakurst, Russia for participating in Burning of Arms..."*



7. Gordon Shukin reports: "....On the right are events around Tolstoy School likely late 1930's.

My mom Barb Shukin née Podmaroff as well as her siblings Mary, Pete, Pauline and Lil attended there as did Dads lifelong friend Fred Pohozoff, moms close friends Evelyn Osachoff née Kazakoff and Helen Chursinoff (née Maloff). Sam Verigin also attended as did some other Verigin's, Roy Chursinoff. Prior to that in the earliest days, my mom's aunts Dora Mroske (née Chernoff) and Nora Kurbatoff (née Chernoff) as well as their brother Peter Chernoff attended Tolstoy. As well there were Oystreks and Derhousoffs who attended...."



"....of my mother Barb Shukin were associated with those days long ago when She attended Tolstoy Country School Northwest of Verigin. Often, they revealed themselves as fragments of conversations, lines from poems and fables learned in school. In Her younger years it was stories of going to school in the knee-deep snow of winter, travelling in a horse drawn sleigh and of course the other children some of whom became lifelong friends- Evelyn Kazakoff, Fred Pohozoff, Paul Sookocheff,

In Her older years it was the fragmented reciting of childhood poems like the one based on the old fable "Belling the Cat", and Her affectionate impersonations of many of Her childhood classmates.

8. Gordon Shukin reports: "...The teacherage from Tolstoy where my folks stayed the first-year dad taught there was purchased by Ed Mroske and moved to their farm as a home for my grandmother Anna Podmaroff (née Streljaeff). She lived in it till the mid-1960s when she moved into Veregin. It no longer exists..."

"....I visited Tolstoy about 15 years ago. I believe it is still used for barbecues periodically. I got drunk there once around 1980. Some older friends from the area told me it was a rite of passage since my mom attended Tolstoy and my dad taught there. They were the ones to blame. Dad was quite amused a few years later when I told him

9. Allan Morozoff, former student "....Allan was born in Kamsack, Saskatchewan and brought up on a farm near Verigin. After High School he went to technical school in Moose Jaw where he got his certificate in soil testing. From there he journeyed to Calgary to begin his life as a businessman, a family man and an adventurer. He started his business ventures in a partnership called Almor

Testing Services, but one company was not enough for him. About ten years later he initiated another company called Geo Grout, both of which are continually successful today. Allan loved life and put himself into it. His great passions for scuba diving, fishing, photography and finally flying took him on many adventures in all walks of life. Over the last several years he sought serenity by taking frequent trips in his airplane into the remote fishing areas of Northern Canada..."



10. Allan Organized a Tolstoi School Reunion on July 3, 4, 5, 1998:



TOLSTOI SCHOOL, 1928: This photograph of the Tolstoi School near Verigin, its pupils and staff, was taken in 1928 and was submitted to be included in the Kamsack district history book by Laura Popoff. From left are: Jim Kazakoff, Alec Reiben, Alec Morozoff, unidentified, Bill Gitchin, Mike Sereda, Geo Koochin, Mike Kazakoff, Alec Verigin, Mike Shkuratoff, Bill Kazakoff, John Shkuratoff, Fred Reiben, Pete

Koochin, Nick Galisheff, Nora Galisheff, unidentified, Mabel Kazakoff, Nellie Gritchin, Polly Sereda, Lillian Sookochoff, Annie Shkuratoff, Erna Brendt, Helen Sookerooff, Molly Kazakoff, Molly Shkuratoff, Rosie Brendt, Vera Reihan, Dora Chernoff and Fanny Chursinoff. The teacher, John A. Popoff, can be seen standing at centre rear.

TOLSTOI HOMECOMING NEWS BULLETIN #2

Committee:
Evelyn Verigin
Peter Verigin
Molly Poole
Lorne Poole
Sid Kazakoff
Al Morozoff

November 26, 1997

Hello once again !!

We wish to thank all of you who have handed in their questionnaires and wish to encourage the rest of you to please take a few minutes to fill out and return the questionnaire at your earliest convenience.

To date we have received just under 1/2 of the questionnaires that we mailed out. However, the good news is: the majority (75%) of those of you who responded are enthusiastically planning to attend. Our tallied attendance to date is 94.

Comments, questions and/or misconceptions some of you had which I wish to clarify at this time are as follows:

- Location of the Reunion:
Yes. The reunion is going to be held at the Tolstoi School grounds and is planned for the first weekend of July (3, 4 & 5), 1998. The mail is being delivered to my business office in Calgary in order to facilitate administration, mail sorting and correspondence.
- A concern was raised about the incomplete White Sand List:
The intent was to simplify the mailing list so the names would not appear twice and cause confusion. We are forwarding a revised White Sand list with this bulletin.

Some of you suggested the possibility of creating a picture wall of old school photo's for this event. If any of you have any old school pictures, please forward them to us and we will have them duplicated and returned to you. Hopefully we will receive enough material to complete this project.

No suggestions have been made regarding the proposed 3 day itinerary. We therefore do not anticipate any changes there.

We request that the remaining questionnaires be returned to us no later than January 15, 1998.

We would also require that all funds be forwarded to us no later than April 15, 1998, so that we can finalize preparations for this event.

Remember, the success of this event depends on you.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation.

Al Morozoff

Mailing Address: Tolstoi School Reunion
c/o 7505 - 40 Street SE
Calgary, AB T2C 2H5
Fax: (403)236-1707

TOLSTOI SCHOOL 1929 - 1960

Auger, Richard	Kazakoff, Walter	Sereda, Jean
Bahrey, Donald	Kinakin, Helen	Sereda, Mike
Bahrey, Lorne	Kinakin, Katie	Sereda, Polly
Bahrey, Phyllis	Kinakin, Vera	Shkuratoff, Annie
Berndt, Erna	Konkin, Mildred	Shkuratoff, Dora
Chernoff, Dora	*Kurbatoff, Mary	Shkuratoff, Harry
Chernoff, Helen	Langelier, Agnes	Shkuratoff, Molly
Chernoff, Molly	Langelier, Jeannette	Shkuratoff, Tom
Chernoff, Vera	Langelier, Ronald	Shkuratow, Margaret
Chursinoff, Nina	McLachlan, Linda	Shkuratow, Polly
Chursinoff, Roy	Morozoff, Allan	Shukin, Robert
Chursinoff, Fannie	Morozoff, Annalee	Sookeroff, Helen
Chursinoff, George	Morozoff, Bill	Sookochoff, John
Fedosoff, Joe	Morozoff, Donna	Sookochoff, Paul
Fedosoff, Verna	Morozoff, Florence	Strelloff, James
Galisheff, Alice	Morozoff, Paul	Strelloff, Pamela Ann
Galisheff, Tony	Morozoff, Richard	Strelloff, Pete
Gizowski, Barbara	Perepiolkin, Christine	*Swetikoff, Fred
Gritchen, Bill	Perepiolkin, Molly	Tomilen, William
Gritchen, George	Perepiolkin, Nick	Verigin, Annie
Gritchen, Polly	Perigudoff, Mac	Verigin, Eunice
Halisheff, Diana	Perigudoff, Thelma	Verigin, Florence
Halisheff, Helen	Podmaroff, Barbara	Verigin, Mary
Halisheff, John	Podmaroff, Lillian	Verigin, Merelyn
Halisheff, Molly	Podmaroff, Mary	Verigin, Michael
Halisheff, Pauline	*Podmaroff, Pauline	Verigin, Mike
Halisheff, Rosie	Pohozoff, Fred	Verigin, Pete
Hight, Ronald	Prodaniuk, Carl	Verigin, Sam
*Kanigen, Nick	Prodaniuk, Elizabeth	Wlasychuck, Elsie
Kardinal, Lena	Prodaniuk, Georginia	Wlasychuck, Mildred
Kardinal, Nick	Reiben, Paul	Wlasychuck, Stanley
Kazakoff, Evelyn	Romanow, Josephine	Yaholnitsky, Robert
Kazakoff, Florence	Romanow, Julia	
Kazakoff, Jack	Romanow, Lawrence	
Kazakoff, Mary	Romanow, Sylvia	
Kazakoff, Nora	Romanow, Victor	*If anyone knows the where abouts of these former students, please let us know
Kazakoff, Sydney	Sakundiak, Genavieve	
Kazakoff, Tina	Sakundiak, Edward	
Kazakoff, Verna		

TEACHERS

Arneson, Ardis
Klochko, Tana
Popoff, Pete
Shukin, Harry
Strocen, Ann
Tysowski, Sonia

11. Verdant Valley

a. Location: SD 233, SE Sec. 34, Tsp 31, Rge. In 1916-19292, W2nd

b. Nearest Settlement: Veregin

c. Lawrence Chursinoff, student:

d. *"...I went to verdant valley school about 3 miles from the farm just for grade 1 there were 2 of us Debbie Sobkow and me ..after that the school bus evolved and the went to Mikado ..i have some pics I would have to dig it up ...for lunch we would flood gopher holes and back them with a bat when they came out lol...kids will never experience that anymore. And played with plasticene my favorite...end of the school year have a wiener roast by the white sand river I have a pic of that what memories...winter my dad would deliver me with a horse an d caboose ...summertime i walked or side saddle on a bike very seldom..."*



e. *"...This is from pretty valley school I acquired..."*

12. Veregin

a. From Google: *"...SD #361*

b. Abandoned Veregin School

Today:

c. *Original Built in 1908 and was named after the Doukhabor Leader, Peter Verigin. A red brick building was set up in 1920, and in the 1940s, three buildings housed the school. In 1956 a four-room school was built. As years passed, the upper grades were gradually transferred to Kamsack. Other grades followed and in August 1983, Veregin School was finally closed..."*



d. The Writer is aware of two (2) Rhodes Scholars that graduated from Veregin Grade 12:

1. **Dr. Fred Trofemenoff . student** Physics Engineering U of S. Citation taken from Engineering Institute of Canada: **Dr. Frederick N. Trofimenkoff, Calgary, AB** ".....Dr. Trofimenkoff is currently Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Calgary. He has carried out pioneering research in the area of semiconductor physics, and in high temperature instrumentation and electromagnetic wave propagation for geophysical prospecting The Engineering Institute of Canada Fellow Citation - 2003 Dr. Frederick N. Trofimenkoff – A Member of IEEE Canada Dr. Trofimenkoff graduated in engineering physics from the University of Saskatchewan and obtained a Masters degree in Physics from the same university. Subsequently he was granted a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of London and a Diploma of Membership from Imperial College. He is currently Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Calgary. Dr. Trofimenkoff joined the faculty of electrical engineering at the University of Saskatchewan for a number of years and then moved to Calgary to found a similar department there. Subsequently he was head of this department for 10 years, while teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level. He also participated in numerous committees, and in professional organizations at the local, provincial and national levels for many years. He has carried out pioneering research in the area of semiconductor physics, and in high temperature instrumentation and electromagnetic wave propagation for geophysical prospecting. He has published extensively and his work has had a significant impact on

industry, where he holds eight patents with two others in progress. Much of this technology has been licensed to industry, which has generated significant royalty income to the University of Calgary, and to the researchers involved. The patents have been wide ranging with a number for use in the oil industry for down-hole instrumentation and telemetry applications, for voltage frequency conversion and other innovative uses. One very practical invention, especially for Canadian purposes, is a skate-sharpening device currently in production. It is abundantly clear that Dr. Trofimenkoff's talents cover a broad base, as a researcher and scientist, a teacher and administrator, a consultant to industry, and in the support of the University of Calgary by the conversion of his ideas to practical, patented devices for industrial purposes. Mr. President – I present now, a Fellow of the EIC - Dr. Frederick N. Trofimenkoff....”

2. **Dr. William (Bill) Chernoff, Student** (Mathematics and Physics)

Retired Professor from University of New Brunswick in Fredricton, NB.

3. **Lydia (nee Konkin) Cherkas, student:**

“...I went to school in Verigin. Grade one to 3 was a one room school by hotel in Verigin. Grades 4 to 6 were in a one room school at the site where Shishliki are held. There too was a red brick school that had grades 7 to 9 in one room and 10 to 12 in another room. My parents bought a house in Kamsack in fall of 1957. I moved to finish the rest of my grade 8 at Victoria school in Kamsack. Then of course took my high school at Kamsack collegiate (KCI).

Nursing - It was a three year plan at Saskatoon City Hospital. I took 2 years and quit to marry Peter! 😊

I had enough to qualify for Certified Nursing Assistant which later pass medications besides doing bedside nursing.



4. **Mike N. Chernoff, Student:** First school was White Sand Valley now Veregin “...The next year we moved to Verigin. I was in grade three and Ms Remenda was my teacher. I was now down to three grades in one room and the next year I changed schools but we still had 3 grades one room....”

5. **Mark Duchmeminsky, student,** December 27, 2025 [Veregin School](#). “...Grades 1 to 3 in one room and 3 to 6 in another room. I believe my oldest brother **Ron** went to a rural school close to Dnieper called [Wisnia](#) school. He is on Facebook if you want to message him...”



6. **John Khadekin, Teacher** taught in [Veregin High School](#) about 1952 – 1954

- a. He had **Dr. Fred Trofemenkoff** as one of his students
- b. Also Max and Fred Peregoudoff, Physics Engineers (need info)
- c. Many more

7. **Mary Khadekin (nee Verigin), student:**

"...from Phoenix, attended from May 1944 to November 1947..."



8. **Jim Perepolkin, student**

"...I started grade 1 in Yorkton. Then we moved back to Verigin. Best story, start of grade 2 Olga Chernoff, the teacher lined all the boys up front and gave us a taste of the strap.

Our farm was right west of the Chernoff farm on the same section. Bill was born on the quarter we owed. We sold it to Dora in the late 90's.

My grandfather Perepelkin gave each of his children a quarter of land. He gave the one we had and the one across the road of Chernoff's to the south. To my aunt Florence, she was married to a Remezoff.

I worked for Sask Wheat Pool for 30 years, retired, and then for Seaboard, another grain company for 13 years. Then, 8 years for SGS, it's a company like the Grain Commission. I did inspection of grain shipment overseas of ship and container. I guess 3 times for the World Food programme...



9. **Nickolas N. Trofemenkoff, a student:**

"...Nick was a physicist (Ph.D. Australian National University), researcher (elementary particle physics), college teacher (Heritage College, Gatineau),... A man of his word, Nick will be missed for his dry sense of humour, his quiet and precise approach to life, his commitment to teaching, and his deep connection to nature and to the land. A Saskatchewan prairie boy, Nick was the son of Nicholas P. and Mary (Sherstabitoff) Trofimenkoff



10. **Peter Trofemenkoff Student:**

"...(contact (403) 271 8030 on internet. Author was not able to get a response to this phone number that is posted on the internet beside his name. "...

11. **Verigin School Reunion 1983**



12. **Gordon Shukin** sending more info on father, Educator Harry Shukin

13. **Max Peregoodoff, student:** Information from his nephew's son, Robert

Peregoodoff:

1. *"...You are correct, he did graduate as an engineer, i just don't think he practiced engineering for very long before he then decided to be a public school teacher..."*
2. *"... I know that his work as a teacher and principal in Prince Albert, Sask..."*

14. **Fred Peregoodoff, student** and U of S Engineer information pending from sons

Robert and his brother:

1. *"...I am happy to contribute..."*
2. *"...Fred was my dad, and Uncle Max still lives in Kamloops. How can I help?"*
3. *"...one clarification - dad was involved in a helicopter crash off the east coast*
 - a. *he had a long soak, and a scary 'dunk' in the north Atlantic*
 - b. *there is a CBC National interview of him but I have not found it*

15. **Tanner Verigin, Student bussed to Kamsack:**

1. *".... I can recall the bus route from the 1990s - usually it was Mary Perepelkin behind the wheel, and we had the same route - Starting at the Kereluk's place south of town, then stopped at the Bloudoffs, before picking up all the kids in the village. We all had to meet at the one stop - either in front of Lucash's place or in front of Trofmenikoff's, On the way to Kamsack, we'd stop at the Kindiak farm, then take the long road north to Horkoff's (Danny and Adeline's), before heading into town. That was the standard route at the time, at least throughout the 1990s.*
2. *From my perspective - graduated in 2005, attended U of S for Nutrition, graduating in 2011, before moving to take a M.Sc. and a M.Phil. from University of Bergen in Norway, University of Radboud in Netherlands, and University of Palermo in Italy between 2013-2015....'*



16. **Lawrence Verigin:** *"...from Phoenix, attended from May 1944 to November 1947..."*

17. **Verigin Family travelling to Veregin School in the Winter of 1946:**

1. A cutter on 2 sleds with seats for passengers
2. Horses name was Molly
3. Seated on Front L to R: Lawrence and Russel
4. Seated at Rear L to R: Elmer and Mary
5. There were two (2) Livery Barns in the Village of Veregin, the one on the East side was used to shelter Molly all day



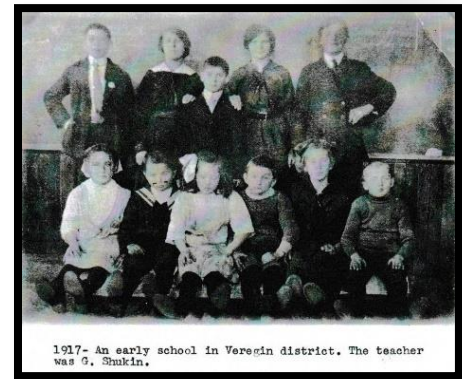
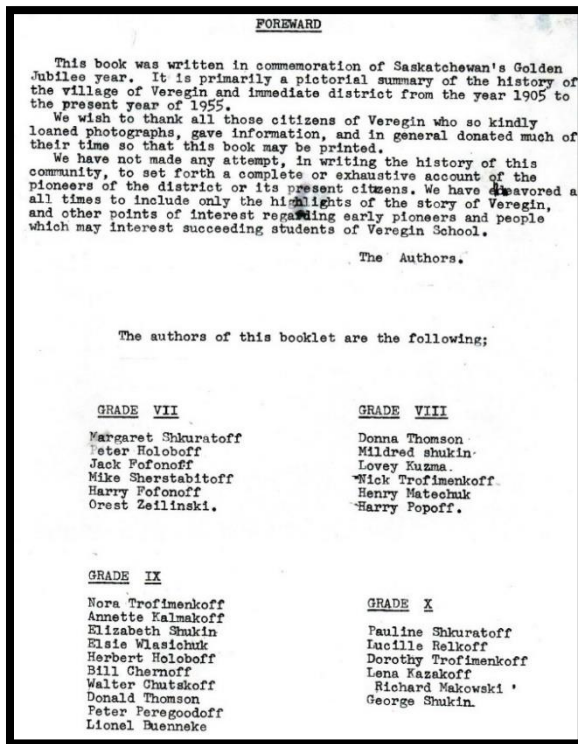
18. **Russel Verigin:** *"...from Phoenix, attended from May 1944 to November 1947..."*

19. **Elmer Verigin , student:** *"...started school in September 1946 and attended to November 1947..."*

20. **Veregin School Saskatchewan 1955 Jubilee Project**

1. Author's Notes on this document obtained from the NDHV files at Veregin: The Grade IX class (in this Jubilee Committee) was part of the original classes in Grades 1 and 2 that the Author attended under the School Teacher, Mrs. Chernoff. The Author then moved to Pelly in November 1947. There was essentially no further communication with this class until:

2. In May of 1958, My 3rd Cousin, **Nora Trofemenkoff** wrote me a letter asking if she could join me in Pelly for the Pelly Grade 12 Graduation Ceremonies as Veregin was not having one. I was surprised but agreed. Nora took a bus from Veregin to Pelly. After the Pelly Ceremonies, my friend Nick Strukoff agreed to use the Strukoff family car to drive Nora home to her family farm in Veregin. We stopped for a weiner roast at Assiniboine River as that was my request for a graduation celebration with my friends at that time,
3. In late June of 1958, I received a letter from **Elizabeth Shukin** who identified herself as part of this class and asked if she could accompany me on my planned bus trip to the Kootenays in B.C. where I had a summer job with my brothers in their house-building venture. Liz explained that her family had moved to Nelson and that she had stayed in Veregin to complete her Grade 12. I could not remember her at all, but when the bus stopped at Veregin, this girl boarded and identified herself as Elizabeth Shukin.



e. Whitesand Valley

1. Location: SD 2788, Sec. ?, Tsp 31, Rge. 1, W2nd
2. Nearest Settlement: Veregin
3. Different source: Location: SD 2286, "Opened July 2, 1931. First Teacher was **M. Smandych**. Closed June 30, 1961..."
 1. **Mike N. Chernoff, Student first school:** "...I started Grade 1 in 1942 when I was 5 years old at the Whitesand Country School with 9 grades. The first teacher I had was Ms Schindler. I was the only one in grade one. I lasted perhaps till Christmas when I got tired of trekking 3 miles everyday and was missing my afternoon knaps. No one complained about my quitting because everyone in the district knew that the following year there would be 3 girls starting grade 1 and it would be best for me to join them. The following year, Olga Sanchuk was our teacher. She was romanced by Jerry Chernoff and eventually became Mrs. Chernoff, the same

one that taught you. There was an amusing tale about me re_starting Grade one . When the time came in the fall to head to school I was not interested and would not get out of bed. To convince me that I should get up, my mother said that the 3 girls would get ahead of me. Apparently, I replied that first they had to catch up! I believe that Jerry Chernoff was my father's cousin.

Ms. Sanchuk was my teacher for Grade 2 at Whitesand. That was the end of my experience at a one room multigrade country school... See Veregin School for continuation of Mike Chernoff Schooling.

2. Danny Horkoff, former student says:

".....Yes. I attended Whitesand Valley School from grade 1 to grade 8. The school was shut down in 1966. Then we were bused to Kamsack where I completed my high school education. What I life change. From a tiny enrolment to a school with 300 students. Had a heck of a time to make the adjustment. And in answer to your question about photos of the school and a photo of the students. There is some in a box in my dad's house I we'll have to dig through it and see what I can locate. This might take a while. I hope we'll let you know when I find something. We we'll keep in touch...."



"...Here are the names of the people sitting on the stairs in front of the school. Starting from the left. Me Danny Horkoff- Ken Chernoff- Jim Lippai- Don Vanin- Maxine Chernoff- Shirley Horkoff- Debbie Chernoff- Gladys Lippai..." "...Photos taken 1965...."

"...Teacher in the photo was James Smandych..."



"....People in the Photo inside the school. Starting from the left. Me Danny Horkoff- Ken Chernoff-Jim Lippai-Don Vanin"



3. Allan Morozoff, a former Tolstoi Student has generated this list of former students at White Sand Valley:

WHITE SAND SCHOOL 1922 - 1928	
Barabanoff, Mable	Podovinnikoff, Alice
Berndt, Erna	Podovinnikoff, Fred
Chernoff, Dora	Sakundiak, Ann
Chursinoff, Fannie	Sereda, Mike
Gritchen, Bill	Sereda, Polly
Gritchen, Geo	Shkurafow, Polly
Kzakoff, Mabel	Shkuratoff, Annie
Kzakoff, Polly	Shkuratoff, Molly
Morozoff, Annie	Sookeroff, Helen
	Veregin, Annie

g. Wisnea

a. SD 2870, SW Sec. 19, Tsp. 29, Rge. 1. W2nd

b. Nearest Settlement: Veregin

c. **From Google:** "...Opened July 8, 1929, with Clara M. Kyba as first Teacher. As late as 1958 Wisnia teacherage used coal oil lamps for light at night: oil burner had to be filled at night to have school warm in morning.,,"

1. From Obituaries, **John N. Trofemenkoff**,

“... born on March 20, 1930, in the village of Tamboka community, 7 miles southwest of Veregin, SK. John attended Visinia school until 1939, then attended Veregin public school and high school, where he attained grade 11 and part of grade 12. During his youth, John and his brother Micheal enjoyed various sports, including curling, hockey, and baseball. He worked on the farm for several years and later worked for the C.P.R . in Winnipeg, MB, before returning to Saskatchewan to help on the farm. In 1957, he accepted a job with SaskPower in Yorkton, SK, as a meter reader...”.

2. **Gordon Shukin writes about his father Harry S Shukin**

Teacher:

*“...My dad taught at Wisnea School, My dad taught at Wisnea School, then Tolstoi, then Verigin before moving to Kamsack. I do have photos of both Tolstoi and Wisnea
“...This is the only photo I have of Wisnea School where my dad started his career.....”*

Harry P Shukin early 1950s at Wisnea.

I know that Wisnea School was torn down in the mid 1960's if I remember correctly...”



3. **Ron Duchmenisky, student:**

“...Yes, I did go to Wisinia school back in 1955 and started in grade one. Wisinia school was closed around 1961 or so when we were then bused into the school in Verigin. The yard had a school, a teacher's residence and a barn. The school itself was fairly small however we had a nice baseball pitch and enjoyed the space to run around, have sports events and so on. I do remember the teacher's residence being used however I cannot remember the name of the teacher that was in it. The schoolteachers I recall were Harry Shukin and Mrs. Mabel Beucuk (not sure if I spelled it right.). We did from time to time have substitute teachers come in. As far as the number is students it was around 12 or so. Where our homestead was about three miles from Wisinia however cross country it was half the distance and in the summertime, I could bike it or walk depending on the level of two creeks that ran through our farm. More often than not my Dad would drive and pick up my neighbor George Kazakoff and I. Winter was a whole different story as often the roads were snowed in and driving was impossible. We had a couple of horses on the farm, and our neighbor had a small fully enclosed and wood heated sleigh which was very nice and warm. We would hitch up one of the horses and George and I would head across the country to school. At times it got interesting as the snow was deep enough to get stuck in and we had to shovel the sleigh out. We actually got the horse stuck a couple of times and shoveled her out as well. The barn was big enough to house about 6 horses, and other kids would have theirs in it as well. We had to feed, water the horses and clean the stalls. Interesting times. I do not have any photos of the school yard or buildings nor of the students that attended. I do remember some or probably most of the kids that went to school at Wisinia and could provide you with some names if you would like. Hope this helps...”.

“...Some of the people that I remember going to Wisena, besides George Kazakoff, were Lydia and Arlene Perepelkin, Lawrence Cherweyk, Lorraine Bawolin, the Hydamans (Wayne and Sally I think) and that's about all that I can recall in my old age...”.



J) Whitebeech, Saskatchewan

a. Border Road:

- a. Location: SD #4285, SW Sec. 13, Tsp. 36, Rge. 30, W1st
- b. Nearest Settlement: White Beech

b. Builth:

a. Location: SD #3736, SW Sec. 6, Tsp. 35 , Rge. 31 W1st

b. Nearest Settlement: White Beech

c. By Arlen Cwir, student:

"...I've been made aware of your ambitious blog effort. I may have some information to contribute.



My name is Arlen Cwir. I currently live at the location of the former Hamlet of Whitebeech (White Beech) Saskatchewan. The one room school I attended was called Builth.

Builth School was in the Kamsack School Division, the Arran sub-district, and located 2 miles west of Whitebeech. There were 8 such schools in the Whitebeech area.

In 1992, A Whitebeech Homecoming event took place where former school attendees could attend and update their lives.

I attended the original Builth School location, 2 miles to the West of Whitebeech, as did my locally born mother before me. I also attended Builth School when it was moved to Whitebeech, where it retained its original name. Not to be confusing, there was also a WhiteBeech School in the area.

c. With assistance from AI:

'... Builth School (School District #3736) was a historic one-room rural school in Saskatchewan, Canada, typical of the thousands built in the early 20th century to serve farming communities on the prairies.



Location

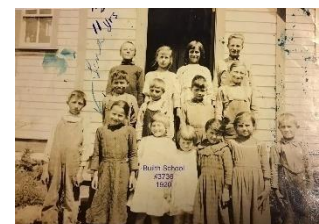
- i. It was situated in the Arran/Whitebeech area of eastern Saskatchewan, near the village of Whitebeech (also spelled White Beech).
- ii. • Legal description: Southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 36, Range 30, West of the 1st Meridian....'

- It was approximately 2 miles west of Whitebeech.

This placed it in a rural Ukrainian-settled region, close to landmarks like Kiev Hall, the St. Demetrius (St. Demetreo) Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Church of the Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Like most Saskatchewan one-room schools, Builth School served local farm children (typically Grades 1–8) with a single teacher. These schools were central to pioneer life, often doubling as community hubs for meetings, events, and social gatherings. The district formed during the boom period of rural school construction in the early 1900s, when Saskatchewan rapidly expanded its education system to accommodate homesteaders. Many such schools operated until the mid-20th century, when consolidation led to busing students to larger centralized schools in towns. Builth School closed sometime in the mid-20th century (exact dates vary by source, but it was no longer operating as a school by the later decades of the 1900s).

The name "Builth" may reflect Welsh influences common in some Saskatchewan place names, though the immediate area had strong Ukrainian and Eastern European settlement. Today, the physical building is gone or repurposed/abandoned, as happened with many one-room schools. The site is remembered through local history projects, family genealogies, and books like *Tales From White Beech*...." **Arlen Cwir, Student:** "... my Mother with her class, taken 1920 in front of the Builth School #3736....""...In the school group photo, the penned in arrow (her writing) identifies my mother Lena Cwir (nee Matychuk) who was 11 years of age at the time...."



d. Cleardale:

- a. . Location: SD #5259, NW Sec. 12, Tsp. 37, Rge, 30 Sopoff
- b. b. Nearest Settlement: White Beech

e. Porcupine:

- a. . Location: SD # 738, SE Sec. 20, Tsp 36, Rge. 30 W1st Japoff
- b. b. Nearest Settlement: White Beech
- c. **John Popoff states:** *"...Porcupine School was located about 2 miles East of White Beech. My Mom and her brother and sister attended that school in the early 1920s. My Mom was Elsie Zmaeff, sister Mary & brother Sam. Her parents (my grandparents) were Mike & Tatiana Zmaeff and they homesteaded there from the early 1900 to about 1950 when they sold the farm and moved to Pelly. They were part of the Thunder Hill Colony and closest to Doukhobor village was Ospenia!. Don't know when the school closed and all that remains is a marker in a small grove of spruce trees...."*

f. Smoky Spruce (Arlen Cwir states there was an East Smokey Spruce)

- a. Location: SD # 5137 SE Sec. 32, Tsp.36 , Rge. 30 W2nd
- b. Nearest Settlement: White Beech

g. West Smokey Spruce (Arlen Cwir states there was a West Smokey Spruce)

- a. . Location: SD #?, ? Sec. ?, Tsp ?, Rge, ?
- b. b. Nearest Settlement: White Beech
- c. [Saskatchewan GenWeb Mission](#) does not list it
- d.

h. Whitebeech

- i. Location: SD 761, SE Sec. 35, Tsp. 35, Tge. 31 W1st
- ii. Nearest Settlement: Whitebeech

- a. *"...Group photograph of teacher, Marie Jopp, and students at the White Beach outpost school in 1943; the students stand by the school that is a frame shanty with mud plaster, a board roof, no shingles and no chimney...."*
Author cannot confirm that this the White Beech School as Jopp identifies the School as White Beach, yet it is posted under White Beech, Sk.
iv. "...Norman Yasinshy attended Teacher's College in Moose Jaw in 1951. He alternately taught at White Beech.....In 1958 he married Eleanor Kotyk of White Beech. After graduating from University of Saskatchewan in 1961 with Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts degrees..."



K) Reference Photographs Depicting Children Attending Country School

- a. A Caboose Pulled with Two Horses
 - 1. John Verishine, Langham, SK.
- b. Typical interior showing stove to warm the occupants



- c. Students walking to a country school in:

- 1. Mud
- 2. Against the winter wind



- d. Typical county school

- 1. Design
- 2. Interior views



L) Random Testaments

1. Marilyn (nee Verishine) Verigin "...August, 1946 -

It may be difficult to believe but I knew after my first week in grade one at Henrietta School (photo take April 2025), that I would choose teaching as my future profession. With eternal gratitude, to the teacher I had from grades one (1) through grade four (4), I never strayed from my intention. I had a thirst for learning!



I did have one 'little' deviance that may have caused concern for my teacher. I loved to have lengthy conversations with my friends. One such occasion was when my friend, Mary and I were comfortably seated on two of the three holes in the outdoor 'biffy'. We were surprised when we heard a knock on the door. It was our teacher telling us that recess time had long been over and perhaps we could return to the school. Return we did only to find ourselves suitably punished by standing in separate corners of the room. Not fun, but funny to the remaining twenty-six (26) students. (she could have put both of us in one corner and then we could have completed the interrupted conversation we had been having before.



The 'biffy' still stands, renovated to a His and Hers as it serves the community in April 2025 and Marilyn enjoys the nostalgic moment.

June, 1954 -

I had successfully completed grade eight (8) in this rural school. I was thirteen (13) years old.

August, 1954 -

This shy, farm girl was off to the big city of Saskatoon to attend Bedford Road Collegiate from which I graduated in 1958.

September, 1958 -

My dream was coming true! I was enrolled at the Saskatchewan Teachers College in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

June, 1959 -

Due to a shortage of teachers in our area of Saskatchewan, I was able to attain an Interim Teaching Certificate after one year of training. The Premier in the Province of Saskatchewan, Tommy Douglas, presented the Certificates to a very enthusiastic group of semi-qualified teachers who would attain their permanent teaching certificates upon completion of five (5) Summer School Courses or one year of five (5) courses at a university.

Summer, 1959 -

The Saskatchewan Department of Education accepted my application for a teaching position. I was assigned to a rural school named Dunfermline, situated West of Saskatoon. I would receive \$170 per month for ten (10) months (September 1959 to June 1960). My parents gifted me a car (a robin's egg blue Hillman Minx) which my dad had purchased for \$180.00.

I was now on my own, soon to be making "big money" at nineteen (19) years of age.

I took an English Course at Summer School before my attempt to teach.

The next task at hand would be to learn more about the community where I would reside.

The school itself was a one room building that served as the heart of the community. Students arrived from miles around, some walking together along wooded trails, others transported by parents who combined school drop-offs with morning chores.

My responsibilities were extensive. I taught a multitude of grades simultaneously, provided supervision during recess and joined families for school events that doubled as fund-raisers and / or social gatherings. The children's energy filled the room, and their eagerness made even the most challenging days, rewarding.

Late fall and winter days saw me making sure that the heater (stove) warmed the chilly air before the arrival of students. Drinking water had to be brought from elsewhere and the earthenware crock (with drain tap) had to be cleaned often. Floors had to be swept daily.

I was rewarded with a monetary compensation of \$3.73 per month.

I doubled as a Nurse, and after school supervisor when snow blocked the roads and parents suffered a delay in collecting their children. There were times when I had to shovel a path in the snow, from my teacherage to the school.

I was astounded to learn that a former Prime Minister of Canada, John Diefenbaker, had taught at Dunfermline. I was told that the Superintendent of Schools had come out to the school for his regular visit to find no one present at the school. He found everybody on a farm adjacent to the school. They were chasing and catching gophers. He had to leave his teaching profession!

Life in rural communities offered unique benefits. Families welcomed me warmly, often inviting me into their homes for meals and celebrations. The cooperation of parents, when we held Christmas Concerts and Fund-raisers was much appreciated. They were deeply invested in their children's learning and took pride in the school's role as a centerpiece of community life.

My memories relish the fact that teachers had the wonderful experience of witnessing the close relationships that existed in the families that were part of the teacher's life.

I appreciated the fact that disciplinary action was rarely needed. We worked as a team.

As years went on, I witnessed a profound development in my students – academically, socially and personally. I watched shy children grow bold, hesitant readers find confidence, and friendships form across grades and backgrounds. These transformations brought me endless joy. The students and their parents became my 'special family'. I cried when the rural schools closed!

Looking back, those early teaching days shaped my approach to leadership, mentorship and education. They taught me resilience, empathy, resourcefulness and the importance of connection. Those small classrooms and close-knit communities left an imprint on my heart that remains with me even now.

Marilyn Verigin...."

2. John Charters, (deceased) Retired Principal of Rossland, B.C. High School

Article from Castlegar News

Just looking at one-room schools

How many of us have attended a school where all the subjects from Grade 1 to 8 or beyond were taught by one teacher in one room? Not many of us left, I suspect, though less than a century ago it was a common experience. While memory lasts therefore, I will try briefly to capture it.

The design of such rural schools varied widely from bare bones basic (i.e. four walls and a roof) and some quite elaborate, but inside they were surprisingly similar. Mine was moderately elaborate. It was a tall, peak-roofed, grey and white building thrust into the flank of Burnaby Mountain. The basement was entered on the ground floor, and a broad flight of stairs at the front led up to the main floor and the covered veranda, which on the right looked out over the gravelled highway, the blue waters of Burrard inlet and Coast Mountains beyond.

On the left were double doors opening on a broad hallway and the single classroom. A one-storey, brown teacherage, also with a veranda, sat modestly at the side while in front of it, from morning until evening, the Union Jack fluttered from the school flagpole.

I lived by the Inlet, about a mile east of the school (it seemed longer then), and was accompanied each day by my ebullient and imaginative Russian friend, Fred Traff (later to win nation recognition as a BC newspaper editor). He was always good company, but the rest of the pupils and the school staff itself (with some surprising exceptions) have dimmed with the years. For example, in the basement there was a hot-air furnace to heat the building, no pot-bellied stove in the classroom, and there were indoor toilets for boys and girls with a hand basin and drinking fountain up stairs - no frigid outdoor privies marked 'boys' and 'girls', and no cup and bucket. There were also ample coat-hooks along the side of the hall as the building was also a village meeting place.

The single classroom, like many of the larger elementary schools of the time, had a cloak room which accommodated not only outer clothing and footwear, but served as a temporary place of banishment for misbehaving students.

The left wall was filled with tall windows, while the single broader window gave view to the steeply sloping play area surrounded by bush and wooded hills.

A framed portrait of King George looked down from above at several rows of some two dozen interlocking desks fixed to runners, smallest for primary grades on the left, largest for grade eight on the right. Black boards surmounted by roller maps filled every available space around the room and chalk rails followed them below.

The smell of chalk dust and oiled floors remains forever imprinted in my mind.

A straight pen and a bronze hand-bell sat on the top school register and a strap sat in the drawer. Above the front boards stretched tow alphabets - one in upper case, one in lower case of the sacrosanct, McLean's Method handwriting script. It was the equivalent in those days of the Mosaic Tablets and brand mark for all, BC-trained elementary school teachers and students. I never mastered it as my own students have good cause to know.

Teaching in a one-room school was a difficult and underpaid job and teachers changed frequently. I started with the elderly, hard-nosed Mr. Mac. from whom I got the strap on my first day. The next year we had Mrs. R., who believed in "teaching with love." It didn't work. She was followed in quick order by two flighty young women who didn't look much older than some of their students. Finally, for our sins, we got Mr. S. who lived in the teacherage with his wife and two daughters, one of them in the class.

He taught to "the tune of the hickory stick," and I still feel sorry for his daughter for she was often in tears.

Names in the school register also changed frequently. Many students quit school and went to work before they had to write the grade eight government exams required for entry into high school. However, a 1927 class photographed with a sardonically smiling Mr. S. stirs memories.

All of the students for example are occidental, almost a third of them are well-behaved Doukhobor children recently arrived from Kamsack, SK, while three are younger members of a family of seven who constituted the community crime wave.


The two oldest sons are serving sentences in prison, the oldest girl attends school by day and serves the sexual needs of the lumber ships' crews by night.

One of the two younger boys in the picture is a permanent member of the primary class and the school bully, the other is known as a petty thief. The light side is represented by a blonde and pretty Norwegian girl smiling sweetly at the middle of the picture. I remember her best.

And what did I learn in that one-room school?

A surprising amount, including the fact that I had three options with broad applications. 1) Ignore distractions (e.g. teacher instructing another grade) and get the job done. 2) Listen to the instruction and learn something new. 3) With one eye on the teacher, engrave another "masterpiece" into the already well-gouged desk top. It could become a collector's item in another hundred years.

The school is long gone now, swept away in a natural disaster, leaving behind only a myriad of stories of a different life in other times.



Just Looking
J.a.charters

3. Tannis (nee Nadane) Negrave

“...My maiden name is Rygiel ! My mother was Nadane ! My dad Joseph Rygiel came from Poland in 1929 ! In the late 1930s he ended up in Cote , Sask and worked for Doukhobors - Kurnoffs, Reilkoffs , Zubenkoffs ! Mother was teaching in Little Bogygy School at the time!
On Jan 7, 2026, at 6:40 AM, Tannis Negrave <tnegrave@icloud.com> wrote



My School Experience

- a. Grades 1-3 Linden Valley School #102 Grades 4-8
- b. Irideal School 4-8
- c. Kamsack Colligate Institute 9-12
- d. Saskatchewan Teacher's College Moose Jaw last year it was opened
- e. Arran School Grades 3 & 4 University Year Arran School Grades 9-12 half the program
- f. Only two teachers Benito Collegiate Moths 9 & 10
- g. Chemistry 11 and 12 Arran School Grades 5&6 Arran School K - 2
- h. Retired after 29 years, I bought out the University Year to get full
- i. Superannuation Pension 30 years....”

M) Elmer Verigin (Synopsis of this Article)

Dated March 17, 2026:

When I started this article in late Fall of 2025, I was of the opinion that a few stories and pages would suffice to relate the story on One Room Country Schools, which I now refer to as Rural Schools since the dissolution of the One Room School in the 1960s to amalgamated schools in the nearby settled villages and towns has now caused those schools to close with large area schools replacing them.

We need to revisit the situation that the Prairies faced in the late 1890s when the sparse population of buffalo and Indigenous people were mostly resident. The Dominion Government of Canada feared that the increasing population in the United States would naturally settle the Prairies and all would “be lost” to the neighboring country.

This advertisement in World Newspapers was a desperate action to overcome that possibility:

“...The Dominion Lands Act of 1872

In the late 1800s, the **Dominion Lands Act of 1872** was a significant piece of legislation aimed at promoting settlement in western Canada, particularly the Prairies. This act offered **160 acres of land for free** to settlers who could improve it, encouraging mass emigration from Europe and the United States. The government advertised the prairies as a land of opportunity, promising cheap land and a better life, which led to a surge of settlers who believed in the potential of the new frontier. The act was part of a broader strategy to develop the region and establish reserves for Indigenous peoples, reflecting the government's efforts to secure agricultural production and expand Canada's territory....”

“...Requirements for disposition by way of homestead grant

The following are examples of some of the well-known requirements (for entering a homestead and subsequently earning the right to receive title to applicable homestead lands) that applied at some time over the approximate 58-year period that the act remained in effect. The act (and its regulations) were amended numerous times over time resulting in frequent changes of the requirements over time.^[8] For example, there were many revisions (starting first in 1908) requiring that the applicant be a British subject at the time of entry, or at the time of the grant of title, or both.^[9] The act gave a claimant 160 acres (65 ha) for free, the only cost to the farmer being a \$10 administration fee. Any male farmer who was at least 21 years of age and agreed to cultivate at least 40 acres (16 ha) of the land and build a permanent dwelling on it (within three years) qualified. This condition of “proving up the homestead” was instituted to prevent speculators from gaining control of the land.^[1]

The act also launched the Dominion Lands Survey, which laid the framework for the layout of the Prairie provinces that continues to this day.^[1]

An important difference between the Canadian and U.S. systems was that farmers under the Canadian system could buy a neighbouring lot for an additional \$10 registration fee, once they had made certain improvements to their original quarter-section. This allowed most farmsteads to quickly double in size, and was especially important in the southern Palliser's Triangle area of the prairies, which was very arid. There it was all but impossible to have a functional farm on only 160 acres (0.65 km²), but it could be managed with 320 acres (1.3 km²). Canadian agriculture was consequently more successful than U.S. agriculture in this arid region.^[10]

Bloc settlements were encouraged by section 37 which allowed associations of 10 or more settlers to group their houses together to form a settlement to fulfil their cultivation obligations on their own homestead while residing in a hamlet...."

Schools needed to be constructed every 4 to 6 miles that would permit children to travel from their homesteads to school. These schools became "community centers".

The railways organized settlements every 10 miles approximately along their tracks, basically to commercially handle this rural population and collect the harvested gains that would be produced on small mixed farms averaged about 320 acres:

1. Number of farms:
 - a. In 1901 - 13,000
 - b. In 1936 – 142,391
 - c. In 1958 – 139,000
 - d. In 2026 – 34,000
2. Today computerized farm equipment assists farmers who average 7,000 acres or more. Essentially one farmer replaced 22 of the rural residents.

The One Room Schools were the first to be closed in the 1960s with the Village schools following.

The Villages then collapsed and now there are no Grain Elevators nor business centers left.

N) My gratitude goes out to these agencies, programs, former students and Educators as listed alphabetically.

1. Berekoff, Harry, retired, Castlegar, B.C. (pending)
2. Charters, Jack, Educator, article in Castlegar News, Thursday, October 16, 2008
3. Chernoff, William Dr., retired Mathematics Professor, Fredericton, NB (pending)
4. Chernoff, Mike M., retired Geological Engineer, pending
5. Cwir, Arlen, student Built School
6. Dubasov, (nee Slastukin), Winnie
7. Duchmeninsky, Mark
8. Duchmeninsky, Ron
9. Fedchun, Phyllis, Retired X-Ray Technologist,
10. Fedosoff, Joe, retired Chemical Engineer, Westbank, B.C.
11. Findlay, Thelma, Saskatchewan Archives
12. Holland, Debbie, Author
13. Horkoff, Danny, retired Farmer, Veregin, Sk, information on White Sand Vallet School
14. Google Earth Pro Computer Program
15. Google

16. Kazakoff, Harvey, retired Electrician, Saskatoon, Sk., information
17. Kennedy, (nee Vanin) Eileen, Lister School information
18. Khadekin, Kenneth, Educator, Swan River, Mb.
19. Khadekin, Mary, photos
20. Klimm (nee Chernoff), Ella, retired Municipal Administrator and now Farmer
21. Koschinsky, (nee Dundas) Pamela, RN now deceased, Regina, Sk
22. Krochak-John. Iris, articles
23. Lapshinoff, Lorne, retired Newspaperman
24. McPhail, Kathy, photo of Andrew and Florence Markin Family
25. Morozoff, Allan (deceased), Tolstoi Reunion Information
26. Morozoff, Gordon, Ab., Photos of Nick Morozoff Family
27. Morozoff, Jason, Civil Materials Engineer, Calgary, Ab. Photo of Allan Morozoff family
28. Morozoff, Lloyd, Calgary Ab, Photo of Sam S. Morozoff Family
29. Negrave (nee Rygiel), Tannis, Kamsack, Sk., retired Educator
30. Ozeroff, Dorthy, Langham, Sk. Retired Hotel Catering Manager
31. Paluck, Don, retired RCAF Winnipeg. Mb.
32. Perepolkin, Jim, retired Canadian Grain Commissioner, Saskatoon, Sk.
33. Popoff, John, retired, Agricultural Engineer, Saskatoon, Sk.
34. Osachoff, Linda, retired Hospital Administrator, Mikado, Sk (pending)
35. Paluck, Cliff, retired Educator, Kamsack, Sk.
36. Paluck, Ernie, retired Real Estate Sales, Regina, Sk. (pending)
37. Pretty View Website:
 - a. Bates, Deb
 - b. Gehle, Margorie
 - c. Green, Scott
38. Rogoski, (nee Popoff), retired LPN, Kamoops, B.C.
39. Shukin, Gordon, retired Pharmacist, Victoria B.C.
40. Slastukin, John, retired Steel Fabricator, Regina, Sk.
41. The Saskatchewan GenWeb Volunteer Team
42. Van Parys, Edward, Student
43. Verigin, Marilyn, retired Educator, Castlegar, B.C..
44. Verigin / Morozoff Family – use of photographic album from 1975 Tolstoi School Reunion
45. Verigin, Tanner. MSc., Denmark
46. Wright Garry W., Toronto, Ont. (pending)

This Article will continue to be updated, every month (while I am able) as I receive more submissions.

1. **Edited by Marilyn Verigin**
2. **Initial insertion into Elmer Verigin Blog April 11, 2026**
3. **Edited and Emended April 30, 2026:**
 - a. **Phoenix School additions**
 - b. **Jack Charters. Random Testament**
 - c. **Gordon Shukin amendments on Kamsack, Wisnea and Tolstoi schools**
 - d. **Added family photos of former Tolstoi students Sam S. Morozoff, Florence (nee Markin), Jason Morozoff**
 - e. **Photo of Verigin Family on Cutter Travelling to Verigin School in winter**
 - f. **Formal Invitation to 1958 Pelly School Graduation**