

## HISTORY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### S, S. No. I

We will go away back to 1862 and start with a log school built across from Nelson Ure on No. 2 Highway in Sandwich East where they used benches for seats with nothing for the children to write on, the girls sat at the front and the boys at the back. Mr. William Ure, grandfather of Elmer, (who has been on Sandwich South Area School Board up until the Essex County Board was formed in Jan. 1969) used to tell the story of he and George Hurst being punished. The teacher would ask how they would like to be punished, by a strapping or sitting with the girls? Mr. Hurst said he would sit with the girls and Mr. Ure said he would be strapped. In as much as Mr. Hurst was quite a ladies' man, the teacher just reversed the punishment.

No more detail of this building was forthcoming but on the site of the school in the year 1951 which was S. S. No. I, Sandwich South, there was a frame building almost identical to the one farther down on the Baseline No. 2, with centre platform and a porch across the front of the building built in 1877. Mr. Ure was secretary-treasurer of this School No. I for 40 years.

In 1905, Mrs. Fred Frith, the teacher at that time had 69 pupils being taught in a building of that size and approximately 15% of them were coloured or Negro. The salaries in those days ran around \$350.00 to \$400.00 per year for the teachers in rural areas. If you boarded out the rate was from \$1.60 to \$1.75 per week. In music, the Singing Master used tuning forks, they were metal forks with two prongs.

Then, as now, all school children wished that the school would burn down, and it did happen, just before Christmas in 1919, but they still had to go to school. It was arranged to be held in a hall, called "The Independent Order of Good Templars", which stood at the back of the Bethel Church. In 1920 a new brick school was built by Ebert Bros. of Windsor.

In 1946, the Junior School (which had to be installed because of overcrowding) was moved from Belleville, Ont. to accommodate this increase in rural population in the township. This building had been used by the army.

In the early 1900's and even later, the big event was the community spelling bees, which ended with an oyster supper put on by the losing side. Transportation in those days was something to think about, you either wiked or depended on horses, then the bicycle which was first built in America in 1890, then the automobile which industry by 1903 was beginning to grow rapidly.

The 1920 built No. I school, structured of red brick was in use until a new modern school was opened on Feb. 3rd., 1961 with the site relocated on the 8th Conc. road near the Baseline. At a school board meeting Apr. 27th, 1960 on motion of Mr. James Fleet, seconded by Howard Holden permission was given to purchase 2½ acres of land from James O'Neil for the new No. I school.

Contract for construction of three two-room schools in Sandwich South Township had been awarded to Cellavine Brothers Construction Co., Ltd., Windsor for \$113,650. Two of the schools would be replacements for outdated units while the third one is for a new area.

The replacement schools would be S. S. No. 6 at School Lane & Highway #3 and S. S. No. I on Concession 8 just south of Highway #2. The new area school will be located on North Talbot Road, east of Walker Road.

When these three are completed it would mean that all school area pupils would be attending classes in new buildings.

Sept. 24th, 1960 - Twins? He Hum - It happens every generation. was the headline on Sept. 24th Windsor Star.

No one was particularly surprised when a set of Robinson twins started school at S. S. No. I Sandwich South this year. It is the sort of thing that happens every generation. Six year old Nancy and Neil Robinson are the third generation twins to attend the school at Concession 9 and the Baseline.

Children of Mr. & Mrs. Wm. B. Robinson, Concession 8, they live next door to their grandfather, Harold C. Robinson one of the first set of Robinson twins to attend the school. He started with his sister, now Mrs. Dennis Mahoney of Riverside.

Back about 20 years ago, twin daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Robinson, Sr., started their education at S. S. No. I. They are now Mrs. Wayne Little of Maidstone and Mrs. Edward Gut of Windsor.

If there are fourth generation twins they may attend S. S. No. I, but not in the same location as the new school is being built on concession 8, and will be open early in the new year, 1961.

Feb. 3rd., 1961 - The new S. S. No. I Public School was officially opened with special speaker, C. R. Crawford of Kingsville, public school inspector who used to have Sandwich South area in his jurisdiction. The new school is located on concession 8 and replaces the old school on concession 9.

An odd turn of events happened just at the opening of S. S. No. I School, when the children of the school had chosen the name "Prince Charles Public School" as the one they wished for the new school when along came word that Queen Elizabeth would no longer sanction royal names on schools. The Board had already had its first notice in the paper for the official opening, so another had to be forthcoming and the name was left S. S. No. I. The reason the children wanted the name they had chosen was because the opening was on Prince Charles birthday, Nov. 12th, is when classes moved into the  
move new school.

In 1965 there were 70 children in attendance at S. S. No. I.

In May, 1964 a contract was awarded to Walter and Morley Hyland for \$439.87 to fence No. I school yard, posts to be 1 rod apart instead of 20 ft. as estimated.

Jan. 20th, 1967 - A new well was to be drilled by A. Hernandez of Harrow at No. I School for under \$1000.00.

Nov. 17th, 1967 - Ruth Ann Herdman, daughter of the Jack Herdman's who resided for several years in this area of Sandwich South was taking a teacher-librarian course at Windsor Teacher's College. She teaches at Ross Public School, Windsor and is residing with her grandmother in Roseland. Her grandmother, Mrs. Nellie Herdman taught in Township School No. 6 for many years. Picture release in Star of Nov. 17th.

This school as well as all the other schools in Sandwich South Township ended being under the jurisdiction of the Area School Board on Jan 1st., 1969 and were under the Essex County Board thereafter. Karen Kirkman received a bursary of \$150.00 given Naylor Lumber Co. of Essex, for proficiency in her studies at Essex High School. Karen celebrated her 19th birthday, Nov. 8th. Her brother Kelly won the same award from Grade 13.

Further Educational Notes from Sandwich South Schools.

July 26th, 1912 - Essex High School Cadets left from Sandwich South for a 10-day camp at London were: Roy Cook, Banford Shuel, Earl Osborne, Ray Ure, and Elgin Middleton.

Oct. 2nd., 1914 - Elgin Middleton, Ray Ure, Percy McKee and Earl Osborne, all former Essex High School students from Sandwich South enrolled at the O.A.C. Guelph.

July 11th, 1960 - Debenture issue for Sandwich South Public School Area for the construction of six new classrooms. Tenders received from Walwyn, Stodgell & Co., - Ball, Gowanlock & Co. and J. R. Simard Co. Tender awarded to J. L. Simard Co. for \$137,000, at the price of 97.57 bearing interest at 6%.

May 23rd., 1968 - Township pays most of its debt to Board in City. More than \$40,000 for payment on non-resident students during the past two years; Bd. still owes the city Bd. \$6,714.00 payment for the term of Jan. to April. Trustees agreed to accept Sandwich South students for the next school year, since most of the debt had been paid. About 40 township students were involved. This came about through annexation.

( 64 ) SCHOOLS OF SANDWICH SOUTH (Continued)

1960 - Spiralling education costs would hit Sandwich South taxpayers hard this year, helping to bring the total tax boost to 14.6 mills for one large category of ratepayers.

Hardest hit would be those in the Sandwich South Public School area who are also in the Essex High School District. Public school taxes would be up 7.3 mills, high school levy increased 4.8 mills and general rate 2.5 mills. This totals the 14.6 mills or 14.60 per \$1,000 of assessment.

The public school area which takes in about half of the township assessment has a rate of 28.1 mills this year; 7.3 mills higher than in 1959. This is partially caused by extra debenture payments and the rest is made up in increased maintenance cost.

While this budget has been approved the area school board is still conducting salary negotiations with teachers. The teachers are seeking a \$500 across the board annual increase.

The part of the township in the Essex High School District will find rates up 4.8 mills from 8.8 to 13.6 and in the Windsor Suburban High School District a boost of 3.6 mills to 10.8.

Increases in union public and separate school sections are more moderate and in at least one case - U.RCSS No. 2 the rate has dropped 1 mill to 14. Highest is a separate school section No. 9 Union at 36 mills.

General rates are 21.5 mills for residential and farms and 24.5 mills for commercial and industrial. They will raise \$74,656 on a total assessment of \$3,418,035. There is a special garbage rate of 3.1 mills for the built-up section of the township and in addition assessments are made for 43 drains.

Mar. 7th, 1961 - Sandwich South Area Public School Board has set a rate of 31.88 mills for operation this year, including debenture payments, an increase of 3.76 mills from last year.

The board which has completed its program of replacing old schools with new ones, was able to set a rate of 28.12 mills in 1960.

Total costs for operation this year are expected to reach \$77,072, with \$20,481 coming from the levy and \$53,436 from the legislative grant.

Instructional costs will reach \$52,570 and school operation \$10,379.

MORE ITEMS ON S.S. NO I SCHOOL

1960 - On motion of Milton Farough, seconded by Howard Helden, purchase of land from Earl Robinson for the new No. 1 school was approved, subject to the following conditions: (a) The Board is to be given the well on the property. (b) The deep well pump is to be given back to Mr. Robinson and the Board will provide a new jet pump and new pipes. (c) The Board is to provide Mr. Robinson's home with water as long as he lives there. (d) the Board is to pay for the moving of the cottage on the property to another location and building of a foundation to two blocks above ground.

March 2nd., 1956 - At the February meeting of Sandwich South No. I Home & School Association, Mrs. Shirley Williams, president, told of the founding of the Home & School Movement; the birth and growth of this great National Organization; how it has prospered because of its four corner stones, Faith, Loyalty, Service and Tolerance. Upon this worthy foundation, over a span of 29 years, each association representing a stone, one beside the other, straight and true, has formed the structure of this now great Organization. Canadian Home & School and Parent-Teacher Federation now have over 2300 associations with a membership of over 161,520 men and women members.

March 3rd., 1961 - At the inaugural meeting of the Area Board, Elmer Ure made an offer of a \$1000 for the old No. I School building which the Board accepted on motion of Milton Farough and seconded by Mr. James Fleet.

March 25th, 1960 - A special meeting was held on Feb. 23rd, 1960 in School No I of the Public School Board of Sandwich South with ratepayers and residents of the school section. Henry Hartley outlined the present facilities for children attending No. I School and advised that the meeting had been called to find out whether the residents of the section felt a new school was advisable, and if so, where it should be located. It was the opinion of the meeting that a new school building was advisable and this was voiced in a motion by Mr. Howling, seconded by Mr. William Verbridge. There was considerable discussion on the best location but no decision was reached until the secretary could secure information from the Department of Transport relative to their flight lines covering the Base Line between the eighth and ninth concessions.

April 20th, 1956 - At the last meeting of the Sandwich South No. I Home & School Association, Mrs. Shirley Williams, past president installed the new slate of officers. They are as follows: Mrs. George Hepple, president; Mrs. Chas. Hazard, 1st. Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Don Carter, 2nd. Vice-President; Mrs. John Graham, secretary; Mrs. Fred Wilson, treasurer; Mrs. Guy Campbell, Mrs. Don Carter, Mrs. Tom Wilson, Mrs. Clifford Whitson, Miss Susan Kolpack, Mrs. E. Metcalfe as members of the executive. Conveners for the year were named: Mrs. Chas. Hazard, health; Mrs. Elmer Ure, music & art; Mrs. Shirley Williams, Parent's education; Mrs. Ray Ure, citizenship; Mrs. George Hepple, religion; Mrs. Metcalfe, film strips; Mrs. Clifford Whitson, publicity.

March 24th, 1969 - Three trios in harmony form a triple trio. Judy Robinson, Danny Broad, Tommy Ewing, Lee Hepple, Lola Howe, Bobby Fenton, Wayne Robinson, Judy-Ann Bisnett and Bobby Whitson were pictured in the Star as winners from No. 1 School.

Feb. 3rd., 1961 - Heather Dent of Sandwich South No. I placed second with her speech "Land to the North" in the Sandwich South Area & Sandwich West Area "b" public speaking contest. Richard Banwell, 13 of Prince Andrew Public School was 1st winner.

Mar. 2nd., 1956 - Stuart Quick, son of Mr. & Mrs. Guy Campbell was winner of the spelling Bee of Sandwich South & Sandwich West "B". Carole Robinson was runner-up. Beth will participate in the Inspectoral Final Spelling Bee. Teacher: Mrs. Metcalfe.

( 72 ) SCHOOLS OF SANDWICH SOUTH (Continued)

S. S. No. I (Cont.,)

Oct. 26th, 1957 - In the Star picture release, Becky, 3, gives her father, George Broad, a congratulatory kiss after he was awarded his Bachelor of Arts Degree at the convocation of the University of Windsor. Looking on is Mrs. Broad, Danny, 8, and Ricky, 5. They are from R. R. 2, Oldcastle where Mr. Broad is a school teacher at S. S. No. I School.

Music Festival - March, 1961 - Vocal Sr. Duet, 12 yrs. & over: Judy Wilson & Lol Howe; 80 points; Vocal double trio, 1 to 5 rooms - Judy Wilson, Sherry Chapman, Judy Robinson, Sinec Hollinfruehd, Lola Howe, Judy Anne Bennett, 85 points; Girl's Choir 1 to 4 room - S. S. No. I - 84; Vocal Choir, grades 5 to 8 - No. I - 87; Vocal Choir two part, grade 5 to 8, - S. S. No. I - 83;