

## S. S. NO. 6 (PERCY MCKEE) Cent.

S. S. No. 6 (Percy McKee School) was phased out in June, 1970. The last teachers were, Mrs. Howard Kimball (Eleanor) Principal and teacher of the Sr. Room; and Mrs. Alve McElroy, teacher of the Jr. Room.

The last graduating class, June, 1970 consisted of Joan Pettypiece, Carol DeVreker, Gail Tilden, James Martin, Dale Martin, Ronald Thrasher, Bradley O'Neil, Bill Raymont, Willard Holden and John Garlick.

S. S. NO. 10 PUBLIC SCHOOL

UNION SCHOOL NO. 10 is located on the corner of the Sandwich South-Colchester North Townline and the 9th concession of Sandwich South (commonly known as the Essex Townline). Two townships, namely Colchester North & Sandwich South contribute to its maintenance and running expenses. The school was built in 1923 with Miss Marie Carrie as its first teacher. Messrs. Richard Hartley, Curtis Tofflemire and Gilbert O'Neil were the first set of trustees. One acre of land was purchased from the ~~Mansie~~ Land Company of Ohio who owned what is the Henry Hartley farm today. First classes were opened early in 1924. It cannot be remembered as that "little red school house" as they painted it white when it was built and has stayed that way. All grades were taught in this school until Sept., 1965 when the Opportunity classes were transferred from Fairplay School to No. 10 with Mrs. Helen Davis as teacher. Then in Sept., 1969 the first public school kindergarten opened at No. 10 with Mrs. Robert Currie as teacher; then at the end of the school term in June 1970 this one-room school was phased out, along with No. 4 and No. 6 or Percy McKee School and some of the pupils went to the new Sandwich West Elementary School. The kindergarten classes were transferred to S. S. No. 5 in Sept. 1970 with Mrs. Shirley Dicker as their teacher.

June 29th, 1966 - The Windsor Star had a feature story on the school which head-lined "LAST OF THE ONE-ROOMERS". "Pupils don't walk from room-to-room at S.S. No. 10 - it's just not possible because it is Essex County's last remaining one-room school and of frame construction at that. Snuggled protectively in a grove of stately elm trees the school is the county's final link with a memorable educational era. At one time 96 schools dotted the Essex countryside. Immediately following the Second World War their numbers declined until now there is only one. A year, perhaps two and then there will be none. Actually it was four years and in 1970 it became history.

A one-room school provides an academic atmosphere that will never be matched by today's modern structures. This was the feeling of Mrs. Helen Davis, the present instructor. As a teacher I know that the children are not receiving as good an education here, as they would at a central school, but despite this our little school has many advantages, she said. "They miss the social involvement they would experience in a larger school and also the specialized teaching since the same teacher deals with children of all ages. These are some of the disadvantages. There are also good points."

For Mrs. Davis the advantages take on importance due to circumstances. Her class is made up of 13 slow-learning pupils.

"No one is different here. The children know that everything isn't entirely right, but it doesn't seem to bother them. They are relaxed, enjoy life and they are learning." The students enjoy benefits that other school children only dream of. A barbeque luncheon is not unusual during the warmer school days, nor is a trek through nearby woods.

As for teaching aids the school has a radio, a piano, a well stocked library and a projector is readily available.

"We don't freeze in the winter and cool country winds keep things comfortable in the summer. There are none of the conventional disturbances; a car seldom passes, sirens have yet to be heard and no one plays outside the school's windows.

All in all, we have a wonderful set-up, but don't misunderstand me, the one-room school is outmoded and with some reservations I will move to a larger school, but it will be best for the children."

Children at No. 10 mostly walked to school or came by motor car when the weather was inclement, until 1965 when Mr. Kennedy of Essex Transportation Company was given a contract to transport No. 10 children to No. 4 and to Percy McKee School at a cost of \$21.45 per day. This arrangement continued until the kindergarten class began in 1969 and they were transported by bus also, until the school was phased out.

The school got its first piano in 1943 when Agnes Hartley was music supervisor, and the school was wired for electricity about 1946. Art was taught by Miss Edith Shearer.

In 1946 books for reading were lent to all the schools in the area by the Essex County Library; these were distributed by the secretary-treasurer of the Area School Board. In 1949 a bookmobile was instituted by the Essex County Library Association. It travels from school to school and supplies each school with material.

## S. S. NO. 10 (cont.)

TROPHIES, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS WON, ETC.

S. S. No. 10 school won the Soap Box Derby Trophy in 1949, 1950 and 1952. This was a silver cup with the names of the winners for each year inscribed on the cup. Tom Pettypiece was the first winner, Nelson Hartley, partner; in 1952-Donald Pettypiece & Jimmie Carroll. Cup presented by the Kinsman Club of Essex-Derby held in Essex.

In a Windsor Star picture release dated Sept. 11, 1954, Walter O'Neil, son of the Walter O'Neil's Sr. was pictured with two other Bursary winners at graduation exercises in Essex District High School along with Mr. H. W. Hall, principal at that time. Walter had won several school awards, one in public speaking for the district in 1946. He had also following graduation at Essex won a Fellowship to England and spent several years over there and married an English school teacher before returning here again. He was awarded the Metropolitan Vickers Electric Export Co Scholarship; He received his B. Sc. Degree in Electrical Engineering from Toronto Univ., June 4, 1958.

March 30th, 1955 - Rural school choir day held at St. Angela's Hall, Windsor at the Windsor Music Festival, Judy Morrison was pictured in the Star release with other contestants. In May, 1956 S. S. No. 10 choir won an award.

July, 1934 - Norma Huggard passed the Entrance Examinations; in 1944 Mervin Essery passed.

June, 1940 - R. W. Shuel of Paquette, son of the John Shuel's graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph; in June 1969, Susan O'Neil, daughter of the Walter O'Neil's was a graduate of Windsor Teacher's College - will teach English and Physical Education at Essex District High School. Susan was a graduate of University of Windsor in October, 1968. She was a graduate of Essex District High School and No. 10 Public School.

May 17th, 1965 - Dave Hayman was an athletic award winner and basket ball captain. He was a 1966 graduate along with his sister Mary Louise.

Nov. 15th, 1969 - Judy Smith was among the students receiving diplomas at the graduating exercises at Essex District High School and won an award.

June 4th., 1965 - Ethel Hartley, daughter of the Henry Hartleys graduated from the Grace Hospital School of Nursing. She was a graduate of Essex District High School.

Aug. 29th, 1968 - Lieutenant Edward Blake Tofflemire recently received Pilot's wings and the Queen's Commission in a graduating ceremony held at Canadian Forces Base, Ptage La Prairie, Man. Son of the Blake Tofflemires, he attended and graduated from S. S. No. 10 and Essex District High School.

Sept. 27th, 1956 - Dorothy Lounbrough, daughter of the Ed. Lounsbroughs was a winner of the Victorian Order of Nurses Bursary amounting to \$750.00 for post-graduate University studies in public health nursing. She was a graduate of No. 10 school and Essex District High School.

April 1st., 1955 - Diane Pettypiece, daughter of the Harry Pettypieces, won the Senior girl's solo award, in age 11 and up at the Windsor Music Festival and also the Oldcastle W. I. award of \$16. In Mar., 1961, S. S. No. 10 choir in unison were 2nd prize winners with 80 points in the Windsor Music Festival and the 2-part choir also won 2nd prize with 80 points.

A BIT OF HISTORY RELIVED BY PUPILS OF MICHAEL PATTERSON  
OF S. S. NO. 5 HELD IN NO. 10 SCHOOL

June 20th, 1969 - When Michael Patterson, teacher of S. S. No. 5 (Charles Collins) decided to have his pupils reenact a classroom of the early pioneer days, it was decided to do this in S. S. No. 10 School as it was the only surviving one-room frame school in Essex County. Students were turned back to 1871 for the day, permitting the children to experience the teaching methods and they themselves dressed in the fashions of the period, girls in ankle length frocks and boys in suspended breeches. Mr. Patterson with stern mein and birch rod virtually became Charles Dickens's Mr. Creatch as he drilled his class. He was attired in morning coat "waistcoat" (vest) and wing collar with black bow tie and was the moustached and side-burned headmaster. The students sat at crude desks with slate and chalk and quill pens. The students of No. 10 carried on classes in No. 5 for the day as usual.

June 25th, 1954 - At the Board meeting, resignation of Mrs. Edith Shearer, art supervisor for all the schools in Sandwich South was accepted and resignation of Milton Elford as teacher at No. 10 was read and accepted and appointment of Mrs. Eleanor Kimball was confirmed as teacher of No. 10. On Jan. 28th, 1955, Mr. Henry Hartley agreed to look after making arrangements to have No. 10 school insulated with "Zonolite" Vermiculite insulation. At the Board meeting of Oct. 15th, 1963, Mr. Hartley reported that the woodshed at No. 10 was on a good cement foundation and was kept locked. They accepted the estimate of Essex Heating Co. for the purchase and installation of a new 162,000 b.t.u. heating system with a house built by Cliff Cox.

## S. S. NO. 10 SCHOOL (Cont.,)

Nov. 21st., 1961 - At the Board meeting James Fleet was authorized to spend up to \$30.00 for the purchase of a radio for No. 10 School.

Apr. 27th, 1968 - Former teacher at No. 10 School, Miss Mollie McGurn, passed away in Belleville.

Oct. 20th, 1967 - Mrs. Helen Davis of S. S. No. 10 School held a field day and sale with her opportunity classes, making \$25.41 which was to go to Unicef. Thanks went to Mr. Dick Reyner for loan of ponies and Mrs. Deehan for telling fortunes.

March, 1964 - At the Music Festival in Windsor, some of Mr. Robt. Irwin's (adjudicator) praise was most enthusiastic and reserved for a choir from Sandwich South Public School No. 10, made up of every pupil in the one-room school; this choir won 1st award with a mark of 82 points. Also for B-flat clarinet solo, 17 years and under, David Hayman won 1st award with a mark of 85; and the same solo, open, won by David with a mark of 86. The clarinet Duet by Ray Probe & David Hayman won with a mark of 85.

S. S. No. 10 School Honor Roll  
World War "II".

Nancy A. Pettypiece -	W.R.C.N.S.	Byron O'Neil -	R.C.A.F.
Margaret Shuel -	R.C.A.F. - W.D.	Murray O'Neil -	R.C.A.F.
Mike Balipop		Lorne Ernest O'Neil -	R.C.A.F.
Fred Berl -	U.S. Navy	Robert N. O'Neil -	R.C.A.F.
Steve Beris		Douglas Pettypiece -	R.C.A.F.
Archibald Hartley -	R.C.N.V.R.	Roy Pillon -	
Edgar T. Huggard -	R.C.A.F.	Stanley Queen -	R.C.A.F.
Jack Libby		John Schnieder -	
Robert Market		Reginald Wm. Shuel -	R.C.A. (Lt.)
Norman Mayhew		Robert J. Shuel -	R.C.A.F.
William Mayhew		Blake Tofflemire -	R.C.A.F.
Murray Essery -	R.C.N.V.R.		

TEACHERS OF S.S. NO. 10 PUBLIC SCHOOL

The first year there were several short term teachers, it seems that a Miss McLean started but only taught for a month, then Agnes Dillon taught a very short time until Easter period, then Miss Marie Carrie became the first full time teacher, followed by Miss Marie Maher; Isabelle Stewartson, Margaret Smiley; Freida Binks; Josephine Shire, Jean Rush; Miss Young; Mollie McGurn; Mrs. Lonsway; Mrs. Kimball; Mrs. Metcalf; Mrs. Helen Davis and the last teacher was for the kindergarten class, the first in a public school in Sandwich South when Mrs. Robert (Dale) Currie taught the year 1969-70 when in June of 1970 the school was closed and sold in the Fall of 1971 (October) by the Essex County School Board. Rita O'Neil, daughter of the Clifford O'Neil's of Walker Road, Sandwich South, taught for one year at No. 10 about 1947. Other teachers were Mrs. Kenneth MacKenzie, Mrs. Lila (Jack) Rowe, Mrs. Tracey and Mr. Jos. Hueglin (1957) and the last teacher in the school was Mrs. Orla Roy.