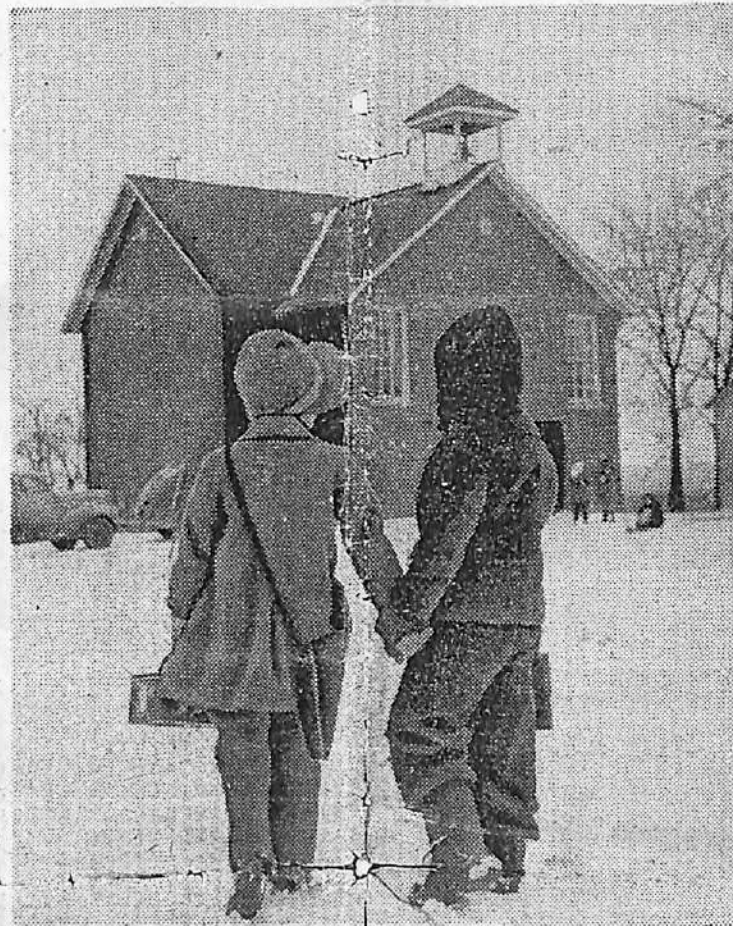


# Going to Country School, Even When It's Close to the City, Like S.S. No. 6, Still Has Special Charm



Going to school in the country, even in the country only a few miles outside of the city, like S.S. No. 6, on No. 3 Highway, still has a special charm. Lack of some city conveniences doesn't bother Betty Taylor (left) and Helen Mann, shown in the picture at the left, getting ready for their lunch. They had to bring the water in from outside to prepare the hot chocolate to drink with the sandwiches they brought from home. (They can toast the sandwiches, too.) Betty is an eighth-grader, Helen a fourth-grader. In the centre is a nostalgic picture, Little Boy and Little Girl, hurrying up to school, carrying their lunch

pails in one hand, and holding hands with the other, books slung over shoulder. Though you can't see their faces, we'll tell you—they're Jean Scott and Jimmy Chamney, both in the first grade. And at the right is the school in action, teacher, Mrs. Stanley Holden, in front, instructing a class of three in reading while students from other grades raise their hands to get attention. Standing in front, the children learning reading are, left to right, Margaret Donnelly, Gerald Collins and Carl Croft, all of grade three, and the boys with hands raised, in back, are Benny Robinson (left) and Gary Volans, both of grade six.

# First-to-Eighth Graders Learn Their Lessons at "Little Red Schoolhouse"

By KAY BUCKLER

How many of you attended a "little red schoolhouse" as a child? And if you did, have you forgotten the magic of those long-ago school days? If so, would you like to accompany The Windsor Star as it visited a typical country school house, S.S. No. 6, about four miles from the city limits?

You would? Well, come then and relive some of those carefree days again. Those hours of years ago when, school bag in hand, you sauntered along a shady, maple-lined path, a lunch kit packed with delicious, home-made raisin buns in your hand, the clear tones of the school bell beckoning you on.

If you are a dyed-in-the-wool Windsorite and have never attended a country school, perhaps you might like to hear something about the advantages and disadvantages of country teaching anyway.

## AT NOON-HOUR

It was noon-hour when The Windsor Star visited this diminutive, one-room red brick school house, set in a grove of wintry trees, the branches of which rattled with every breeze. Small girls and boys were flashing dizzily around the wide expanse of blue ice in front of the school. They stopped suddenly when they saw a stranger approaching and

Joan Brant, aged 7, a pixie-like lass with almond-shaped shining dark brown eyes, rosy cheeks, and buttercup yellow wisps of silky hair sticking out from her red woollen helmet, whizzed forward and said, shyly, "Hello." Immediately there was a hearty chorus of "Hellos" from the rest of the children. Marion Bennett, Bill Brown, Doris Dickson and Frank O'Neill.

It can readily be seen that whatever other disadvantages the country school may possess, it does not breed unfriendly children.

And now would you like to catch a glimpse of the classroom?

The February sun pouring through the drawn yellow blinds silhouetting, blackly, the Valentine hearts and Cupids still marching down the windows. The stand at the back of the room on which rested a gray pail with a dipper, behind which was a row of heavy white shining cups hanging on hooks on the wall. The rows and rows of seats of all sizes and descriptions, which look as if they have seen many a hard day, and which are occupied by 41 children, attending every grade from one to eight. The pictures of Little Boy Blue, of Queen Elizabeth and Churchill, on the walls. The honor roll listing the names of former students who served in the Second Great War.

## SMELL THOSE SANDWICHES

Can you smell the toasted sandwiches the children made for their luncheon or the choking aroma of chalk dust permeating the air?

Or see the attractive brown-eyed teacher, Mrs. Stanley Holden, coming

forward to greet the visitor, smiling pleasantly?

"Of course you may sit here and watch my class this afternoon," she said, "We'll even present a concert for you."

Whereupon she called the children in from their skating a bit earlier than usual, and Grace Robinson played "The Old Lamplighter," and Danny Fraser, "The Waltz of the Flowers," on the piano.

After the concert was over, the children representing every age from six to 13 settled down to their reading lessons, their pigtails, curls, and forelocks falling over the pages of their readers.

That is, they settled down for a few moments. These children, are a lively, healthy, normal group, and the boys especially are typical. Their blue, brown and gray eyes gleamed with mischief when Mrs. Holden's back was turned, they smothered giggles behind their hands, and straightened suddenly when their teacher glanced sharply at them. The girls day-dreamed, and smiled knowingly at each other.

## SHOULD BE PSYCHIC

It would seem that one of the best qualifications of a country school teacher would be the psychic gift or else the possession of eyes in the back of her head.

"That is one of the worst factors of teaching a one room-school," Mrs. Holden said. "It is impossible to watch the rest of the children all of the time, while teaching one group of children, and still give your best to the students you are coaching."

"Often the small students interrupt me while I am teaching another class to find out the meaning of a word or how to pronounce one. I always try to answer them, because, if I were abrupt with them, they might not ask anything again. The timid children, especially, would be easily discouraged if I were to ignore them."

There are other disadvantages to country teaching.

For instance, for the girls there are

no home economics or sewing classes, and for the boys, no manual training instruction. And of course there are no auxiliary classes for backward children. Then again, although the younger children at S.S. No. 6 appeared quite happy in their small world, it seemed rather a pity that the older girls and boys just entering adolescence should be forced to mix with mere babies instead of with children of their own age group, as they would if they were attending a city school.

## HAS ADVANTAGES

However, S.S. No. 6 has some advantages which a city school does not possess. There is a warmth of comradeship among the children at this school which is seldom seen in a large school. And because she is with them so much of her time, the country teacher naturally takes a greater interest in each individual child.

Then again, country children have

to stay home and study their lessons each night because there are no movie houses, just around the corner, or bright city lights to beckon them outside.

Is that why, perhaps, that the country school has produced so many of Ontario's finest teachers, doctors, and ministers?