



TEACHER MRS. HELEN DAVIS CONDUCTS FINAL CLASS OF YEAR IN ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

SS10—last of the one-roomers

Little white schoolhouse mirrors yesterday

By KEN HULL

Pupils don't walk from room-to-room at SS 10.

It's just not possible—School Section 10 is Essex County's last remaining one-room school.

And don't ever make the mistake of referring to the Essex Town Line structure as "that little red school house." They painted it white when

it was built 42 years ago, and it has stayed that way. Snuggled protectively in a grove of stately elm trees SS 10 is the county's final link with a memorable educational era.

At one time 96 such 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.

A one-room school provides an academic atmosphere that will never be matched by today's modern structures. This is the feeling of Mrs. Helen Davis, the school's 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 at 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 SS 10 students enjoy benefits that other school children only dream of. A barbecue 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."



AWAY THEY GO—Students file into familiar yellow school bus which takes them to classes five days a week at SS No. 10.



IN RURAL SCHOOL PUPILS ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

—roaster roast provides unique break from hum-drum