



Road, not a beggar sunning, but basking in all its glory of 74 years, a beacon of learning and forming those precepts which are the foundation of our freedom loving America.

IN 1875 farmers from Iowa settled near Beloit, Kansas. They built homes, a store and a school house. The latter was a social center destined to wield a great influence in the religious and financial development of the community.

compared to our sprawling modern buildings,
However it was large enough to heat comfortably
in a Kansas blizzard.

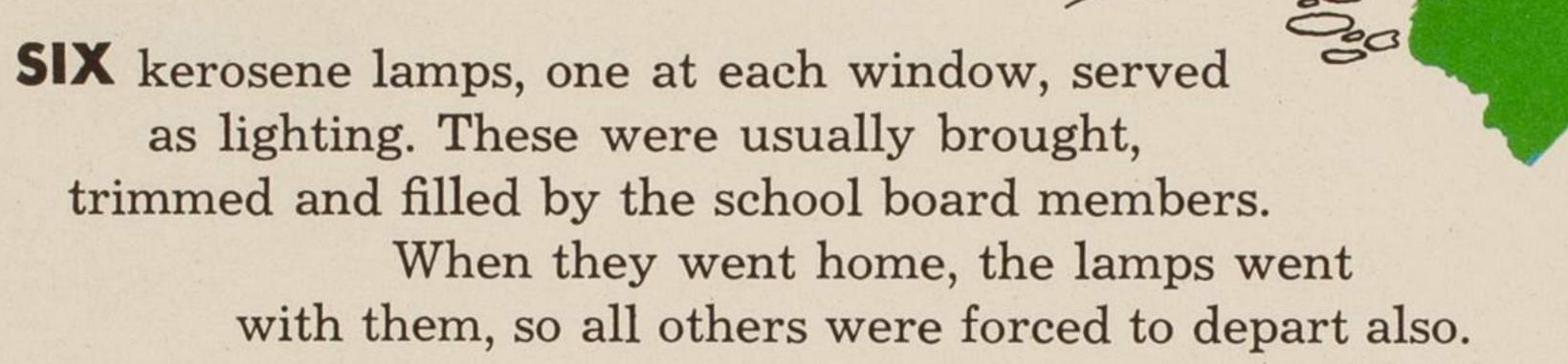
THE "pot belly" stove stood in the center surrounded by a metal jacket to act as a circulator and to protect those sitting nearest.

THE dinner pails that usually rested on a shelf were put under the stove on cold days, and sorry was he, who failed to put his bottle of ink there also. Upon his arrival next morning it had either bursted or the ink and cork stood up two inches out of the bottle.

THE first seats were double desks and home made benches, then single desks and two fine recitation benches "modernized" the school.

Recently three original double desks have been added to help bring back fond memories to the thousands of visitors who enter its doors.

THE teacher's desk was on a rostrum and an organ in the rear of the room doubled for the Saturday night dance and Sunday morning church.



LITERARIES, Spelling Bees and Christmas programs were important occasions. The calico curtains with brass rings still hang from the corner bookcase as though it was only last week that the walls resounded to stirring recitations of "Laska" and "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight."

TEACHERS were leaders in the community and held the respect of almost everyone. A program of 21 classes a day was about the minimum for eight grades. Children learned from each other, were self reliant, worked quietly, and learned to complete their recitations within the allotted time.

VERY little school time was used to teach multiplication tables. Children sung them to each other out in the yard to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." States and capitals and their locations were likewise sung. The tune was "Old Aunt Rody."

REPETITION is the law of learning and country school children heard the same lessons every year they attended, and by the time they reached the eighth grade they knew about all of the right answers. That accounts for the excellent foundation that folder generation has and their ability to retain fundamental facts.

FROM 1877 to 1902 salaries ranged from \$10.00 to \$40.00

per month. Very few stayed longer than one year and three

"gave up." They were probably teaching for that one year

of experience as a stepping stone to a better job and
likely had plenty of it in this district.

PUPILS, teachers and district residents have
visited us and from their confessions
I surmise that there were often bullets
in the stove, sulphur on top, hair in the inkwell,
snakes and mice in the teacher's desk, live chickens
in the toilets, and plenty of snowballs as the pupils dashed along
the paths to the two important little houses in the rear corners
of the playground.

**EVERYONE** drank from the same dipper. Homemade lye soap, a wash basin, and occasionally a roller towel met all the needs for cleanliness.

McGUFFEY READERS set the standard in reading and literature, and each pupil read in his "level" of reading regardless of age, size or grade. Oral reading was stressed, thus much program

reading was stressed, thus much program material was developed for their entertainments.

## WEBSTER'S BLUE BACK SPELLER

produced excellent spellers and contained an amazing amount of information.

MR. WALTER KNOTT was able to buy this school at auction. It was carefully dismantled, trucked out and set up for your enjoyment. All equipment came with the building. The Osage Orange posts have held up the swings for fifty years. They have been reinforced and continue to bring joy to the thousands of children who love to swing.

**DEEP** carvings on the corner stone which has been re-set in the front steps have already been obliterated by the thousands who enter the door.

AFTER the siding was replaced the cracks were filled and a coat of white preserving paint was applied. Kansas schools were white unless built of brick or stone but the public felt it should be red.

Therefore Mr. Knott added a bell tower and bell and gave it an antique red finish. The original name plate made of wood is still above the door.

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