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Memories of our school days in Oyama.... 1930-1942 - Arnold & Gladys Trewhitt.

The School -- The school was built in 1917 and accommodated pupils from Grades 1 to 8, at that time. It was a two-story building with two classrooms and the basement consisted of two rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls and they were used as play areas. A furnace room was in between the two rooms. There were two side entrances, one for the boys & one for the girls, and a front entrance strictly for the teachers & visitors. Each classroom had a cloakroom and a small office for each teacher. In 1921 an extra classroom was added to the back of the school for high school students. In 1922 water pipes were installed and a drinking fountain was put upstairs in the main hallway. The school was wired for electricity in 1935. Outhouses were used until 1938. At that time the School Board decided to install flush toilets. Chords of 4' long firewood was bought from Mr. Vernon Ellison for the furnace. It was piled in long rows at the back of the school. One of the older students always took care of the furnace.

Routine -- The high school teacher always rang the school hand-bell at 9 A.M., recess, noon hour and at 3 P.M. when school was dismissed. At 9 A.M. the pupils assembled at the flag pole and stood at attention and saluted for the raising of the flag(Union Jack). Then the boys and girls lined up at their separate entrances and two-by-two they marched up the stairs to their classrooms. The Lord's Prayer was repeated by the students every morning. Our school subjects were arithmetic, writing, spelling, reading, geography, history, science and art. The School Board hired Mrs. Darvill to teach music once a week and under her leadership our school choir entered many music festivals.

One time we took first place in Vernon. We can still remember singing "Green Sleeves" and the "Rose of Tralee". Our Christmas school concerts were always held in the Oyama Community Hall. One time, during one of these concerts, the

election power failed, but the show went on with the use of lanterns lamps and candles. One play that we both participated in al one of the concerts was "The Stopmarker of Nursemburg." Because it was such a great success, our tracker Mr. Broule, decided that we should unter it in the Vernon Arama Festival. I am diague it meant, daily practices for it, but of guess it was worth it. we took second place, which was a big achievement for our sma school.

Teachers. The teachers who taught use in the school ever Miss. Reth Wilson, Miss. a. bast, Mr. g. kibb, Mr. b. Bessell, Mr. S. Hall or Miss. Mr. Julton. Most of them were very good teachers. When Mr. Bissell was hired by the Alchool Brand, he had been told by the school authorities in Victoria that he would have to deal with a "discipline problem" in the Oyema slabool. Consequently at the beginning he was very strict and we were all scared stiff of him. However, within a year or so, apart from the odd student jumping out of the window, discipline was no longer a criteria.

Whenever the alchool anapector arrived it was obvious that the teach were servine and under a lot of tension. When he entered the class room we all had to stand at attention beside our dester and repeat in unison, "Good morning, Mr. Belong." We will never forget him the had huge sans and always jinglet money in his pectes.

Sours. ... Societ was the mean sport for the boys. Mr. Besult was an excellent sociar weak and under his superscious the boys won the north Chanagam Chesant alrophy four time. They only had one to see seen tall and Mr. Bisself would have timed oil to gut on it to keep it in good condition. If it got damaget beyond repaired they were unable to gobay until the school Board replaced with another. The tiam could always count on Mr. Best placed a transport for market in Coldetree or to wherever the games were being held. He always volunties or to wherever the games were being held. He always volunties to the wherever the games were being held. He always volunties to go, so it was a paralles sight to set he so at the sinkot!

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Teachers -- The teachers who taught us in the school were Miss Ruth Wilson, Miss A. East, Ms. J. Gibb, Mr. L. Bissell, Mr. G. Hall & Miss M. Fulton. Most of them were very good teachers. When Mr. Bissell was hired by the School Board, he had been told by the school authorities in Victoria that he would have to deal with a "discipline problem" in the Oyama School. Consequently at the beginning he was very strict and we were all "scared stiff" of him. However, within a year or so, apart from the odd student jumping out of the window, discipline was no longer a criteria.

Whenever the School Inspector arrived it was obvious that the teachers were nervous and under a lot of tension. When he entered the class room we all had to stand at attention beside our desks and repeat in union, "Good Morning, Mr. Delong." We will never forget him. He had huge ears and always jingled money in his pocket.

Sports -- Soccer was the main sport for the boys. Mr. Bissell was an excellent soccer coach and under his supervision the boys won the North Okanagan Pheasant Trophy four times. They only had one soccer ball and Mr. Bissell would buy linseed oil to put on it to keep it in good condition. If it got damaged beyond repair they were unable to play until the School Board replaced it with another. The team could always count on Mr. Bert Crawford for transportation to the Mackey School in Coldstream or to wherever the games were being held. He always volunteered to qo, so it was a familiar sight to see his car at the school

waiting to pick up the boys. It never missed a game. The girls played softbell must of the time and they too had proble with equipment. They had two bate and one ball and when the ball needed repair, Mrs. Bissell would take it home & re-stitch it for so them.

Basket ball games evere played in the Oyama Community Hall & ping - pong was played in the room under the Shigh school. It has a dirt floor and we can remember when the School Brand covered in goart of the grainds around the school with ciriders from the Reilway. This was to present the mud from being tracked with the school. However, the ciriders were soon removed because the pupils clother, faces & hands were sleways black from the cool du Brow high school teacher. Mr. blell also enjoyed playing society we can recall the term when he was so involved in the game as secess time, he forgot to reing the bell and the game continued in until noon how.

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The girls played softball most of the time and they too had problems with equipment. They had two bats and one ball and when the ball needed repair, Mr. Bissell would take it home and re-stitch it for them.

Basket ball games were played in the Oyama Community Hall and ping-pong was played in the room under the high school. It had a dirt floor and we can remember when the School Board covered it and part of the grounds around the school with cinders from the Railway. This was to prevent the mud from being tracked into the school. However, the cinders were soon removed because the pupils clothes, faces and hands were always black from the coal dust.

Our high school teacher, Mr. Hall, also enjoyed played soccer and we can recall the time when he was so involved in the game at recess time, he forgot to ring the bell and the game continued on until noon hour.

An annual Sports Day was held at the oval in Kelowna and students from our school participated in races, high jumping & broad jumping, etc.

Our school had swings and teeter-totters for the younger students and at certain times of the year skipping, hop-scotch and marbles were a popular pass time.

Other Activities -- On one school outing I can remember Mr. Bissell taking us on a hike to First Lake. It was a lot of fun. We had a paper-chase game on the way there. During the winter we skated on a rink near the Canal or on Wood Lake, if it froze over. Some of the boys played hockey.

Halloween night was fun too. We paraded down the road with "Guy Fox" and burned him on a big bonfire in an open field near the Community Hall. Then we would go into the Hall for fun & games & dunking for apples, etc. One Halloween some energetic students moved the "five-holer" from the Railway

Station and take it up the front entrance of the school to the main hallway. The next morning the teachers or students were greeted with a sign in front of the outhouse reading, "HOME MADE ICE CREAM FOR SALE."

students...... We remember the Oyama school students as being a friend energetic, carefree bunch of kida. Because there were about 65 students in the school, we knew them all. Mearly everyone live on an orchard of or some kind of a farm. This was during the depression years so it was a difficult time for most every one. He can remember seeing transients recting on top of rails preight ears. It was a familiar sight to see them from the school grounds.

Though most of we had to help our parents on the farm with the therining or picking of apples and milking cows, etc. we still found time to enjoy fishing, hiteing, swimming, hunting boating, etc. It was a good, clean, healthy, country life style will be did a lot of walking in those days. Whenever there was party or dance at the bommunity Wall on a Friday night, i meant are extra 6 miles of walking for some of us.

Slone of the boys took guns to school so that they could go hunt ducks at moon hour and after school. Alweing school hours the

guns were kept in the teacher's office.

One time when our high school teacher, Mr. Hall, had left our class room for a few minutes, the students decided to change the time on the clock of put the hands ahead. They crossed our of the girls to do it. The clock was on a high sheef at the front of the room and all event well until she proceeded to put the clock back on the sheef. At that moment, Mr. Hall came back into the room of because the clock hadn't even pushed back for inough, — it toppled to the floor will a big crash! The poor girl had to pay for a new clock. Apono had the only this school before therein of kellowid.

Station and took it up the front entrance of the school to the main hallway. The next morning the teachers & students were greeted with a sign in front of the outhouse, reading, "HOME MADE ICE CREAM FOR SALE."

Students -- We remember the Oyama School students as being a friendly, energetic, carefree bunch of kids. Because there were about 65 students in the school, we knew them all. Nearly everyone lived on an orchard or some kind of farm. This was during the depression years so it was a difficult time for most everyone. We can remember seeing transients riding on top of railway freight cars. It was a familiar sight to see them from the school grounds.

Through most of us had to help our parents on the farm with the thinning or picking of apples and milking cows, etc. we still found time to enjoy fishing, hiking, swimming, hunting, boating, etc. It was a good, clean, healthy, country lifestyle. We did a lot of walking in those days. Whenever there was a party or dance at the Community Hall on a Friday night, it meant an extra 6 miles of walking for some of us.

Some of the boys took guns to school so that they could go hunting ducks at noon hour and after school. During school hours the guns were kept in the teacher's office.

One time when our high school teacher, Mr. Hall, had left our classroom for a few minutes, the students decided to change the time on the clock & put the hands ahead. They coaxed one of the girls to do it. The clock was on a high shelf at the front of the room and all went well until she proceeded to put the clock back on the shelf. At that moment, Mr. Hall came back into the room & because the clock hadn't been pushed back far enough, it toppled to the floor with a big crash! The poor girl had to pay for a new clock. Oyama had the only High School between Vernon & Rutland

so atalents from Winfield attended own school. One of them draw a can and transported the students to r from school. One morning when Subbut Berry was driving, the steering mechanism broke in his can and it work of the bridge and into the land in Ogena. Fortunately the students only suffered minor injuries.

One day when the school news was coming, we hand that everyone would have to take their clother off and be checked by how. Three of the boyse didn't went to have any part in that so they left the school without permission and went hunting. When they returned their teacher gave them the strap on both of their hands.

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Aldredo Stre was close to the school so most of the students went there for their school supplies and penny sandy such as fair brush

and toppe suckers.

The Egama Post Office was also close to the school. The mail was brought and from Vernon & was sorted in the Post Office, but then we mail delivery to mail boxes, so some of us would puck mail how after achor for own neighborns & receive 35% - 50% for design of their Some of the parents, who had care, took turns in driving their children to school when they were in grades 100 h and if they liked 23 to 3 miles away. After that most of us walked until we were able to rule because the soad was only impleushed interesting during the winter because the soad was only impleushed for hay of the distance we had to walk. The plough, which was made of word in the shape of a V was pulled behind the truck Home of the students road down the hills to school on sleighs or bob studes Oguma got its first school bus in 1954.

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One student lived over at Geer's Bay where rattle makes could always be found. One morning he killed 4 of them & brought them to school a hid them in the girl's deak drawer Reedless to say, that caused a comotion.

so students from Winfield attended our school. One of them drove a car and transported the students to & from school. One morning when Gilbert Berry was driving, the steering mechanism broke on his car and it went off the bridge and into the Canal in Oyama. Fortunately the students only suffered minor injuries.

One day when the school nurse was coming, we heard that everyone would have to take their clothes off and be checked by her. Three of the boys didn't want to have any part in that so they left the school without permission and went hunting. When they returned their teacher gave them the strap on both of their hands.

Aldred's Store was close to the school so most of the students went there for their school supplies and penny candy such as jaw breakers and toffee suckers.

The Oyama Post Office was also close to the school. The Oyama mail was brought out from Vernon & was sorted in the Post Office, but there was no mail delivery to mail boxes, so some of us would pack mail home after school for our neighbours & receive 25 cents a month for doing this.

Some of the parents, who had cars, took turns in driving their children to school when they were in grades 1 or 2 and if they lived  $2^{1/2}$  to 3 miles away. After that most of us walked until we were able to ride bicycles. It was a long hike especially during the winter because the road was only ploughed half of the distance we had to walk. The plough, which was made of wood in the shape of a V was pulled behind the truck. Some of the students rode down the hills to school on sleighs or bob-sleds. Oyama got its first school bus in 1954.

One student lived over at Geer's Bay where rattlesnakes could always be found. One morning he killed 4 of them & brought them to school & hid them in the girls' desk-drawer. Needless to say, that caused a comotion.

Closing of the Old Oyama School---On October 7, 1979 a closing ceremony was held for the Old Oyama School. The special day drew a large crowd of about 400 people. Every teacher and student from 1917 to 1979 had been included in the invitations. They came from as far away as Los Angeles, Edmonton, Toronto and Ottawa and gathered together to reunite and honour an era gone by.

All of our 9 children, who were also students in the school, were all there for the closing ceremony, except for one who lives in Newfoundland.

The old school was very dear to us all, so it was a sad day for everyone when it was demolished in November 1979

P.S.

In about 1938-39 the School Board decided to change the ping-pong room in the basement into another high school classroom. Another teacher, Miss Fulton, was hired to teach math & French there.